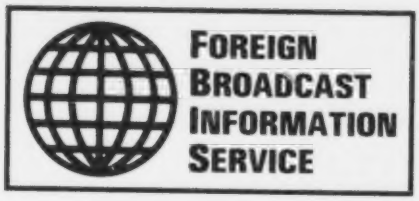

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LD281404 [Editorial Report]

Gulf Conflict

Iraqi Air Raids—Iraqi warplanes attacked and hit three large maritime targets off the Iranian coast the night of 27-28 October, the Iraqi command announced in statements broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio. The Iraqi Air Force also raided "selected targets" in the Agha Jari oil field, inflicting "devastating blows," according to a war communique carried by the radio.

For Iran's part, IRNA reported that an Iraqi aircraft was downed by a surface-to-air missile during an Iraqi raid which inflicted damage on "residential" areas in Khuzestan. A second Iraqi plane was shot down over the Gulf when Iraqi aircraft raided and damaged facilities on Lavan Island, Tehran radio announced. However, INA carried Iraqi statements denying both Iranian claims and asserting that all Iraqi planes returned safely from their raids on Agha Jari and in the Gulf.

IRNA subsequently reported another Iraqi raid on Iran 28 October, stating that Iraqi planes inflicted casualties and damage in an attack on a "non-military" area in Fars Province. An Iranian military spokesman cited by Tehran radio warned that Iran will retaliate "with full force" until Iraq stops its "mischief."

Iran and the U.S.—The U.S. trade embargo will cause no problems for Iran and will merely serve to harden its "unwavering will" to continue working for the downfall of the "aggressors," Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi asserted in an interview cited by Tehran radio. In another development, the radio gave details of a 23 October incident in which Iranian naval patrol planes allegedly ignored warnings from U.S. warships to change course and flew to within 10 miles of the American vessels. The incident reportedly occurred in the Sea of Oman off Jask.

As for Iran's acquisition of U.S. Stinger missiles, AFP reported a statement by a pro-Iranian source in Beirut claiming that Iran received over 30 Stingers from the United States as part of the "Irangate" arms deal.

Syrian Position—Syria's stand "by the side of fraternal Kuwait" is "continuing and steady," SANA's political editor maintained in a commentary cited by Damascus television, adding that Syria is always ready to cooperate with the "Arab brothers" in whatever is useful to the Arab cause and conducive to real Arab solidarity. However, the commentary stressed that Syria "refuses to stand in the trench of the U.S. forces in their aggression against Iran and their attempt to spread their control and hegemony over the Gulf region."

Kuwaiti-Egyptian Talks—Reporting on talks between the Kuwaiti defense minister and a visiting Egyptian delegation, MENA said the two sides discussed the current situation in the region and ways to strengthen bilateral relations. The Egyptians conveyed a message from President Husni Mubarak expressing Egypt's support for Kuwait against the "aggressions" that targeted its territory and oil installations, KUNA noted.

Protests in Bahrain—Citing a report by the Islamic Front for the Liberation of Bahrain, Tehran radio stated that Bahraini security forces arrested over 150 people taking part in anti-U.S. demonstrations 22 October. The report claimed the demonstrations were "immense," with "thousands" of participants, including a large number of women. It also accused security forces of maltreating and torturing arrested demonstrators.

Iran-USSR

President 'Ali Khamene'i told the Iranian ambassador to Moscow that Iran-USSR relations are "strategic and stable," IRNA noted. The envoy also met with Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi, who said that the two countries should further expand long-term cooperation, the agency added.

Lebanon

Hostage Release—"Reliable" sources cited by AFP reported the release of To Chae-song, a South Korean diplomat who was kidnapped in Beirut in January 1986. The clandestine Radio Free Lebanon said he was released in return for a dls 1 million ransom.

Tripoli Arrests—Syrian forces in the Tripoli area arrested "hundreds" of people in the wake of attacks which killed or wounded several Syrian soldiers, Radio Free Lebanon reported. A group called the "Liberation Battalion" claimed responsibility for the attacks on Syrian positions.

Al-Huss in Damascus—Acting Prime Minister Salim al-Huss arrived in Damascus 28 October to discuss the Lebanese situation with Syrian leaders, Beirut radio reported. The talks will focus on ways to resolve the present economic deterioration.

Egypt

President Mubarak criticized "a minority" of Arab countries for supporting Iran in an interview with the Kuwaiti paper *Al-Siyasah* cited by MENA. Regarding relations with Syria, Mubarak said, "I still extend my hand to Syria as an Arab country."

Syria

No Confidence Motion—The People's Assembly passed a motion of no confidence against Industry Minister 'Ali al-Tarabulsi, Damascus radio noted.

Soviet Visitor—SANA reported that Prime Minister 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm discussed Syria's "strategic water-related projects" with the visiting Soviet minister of land reclamation and water resources.

Bourguiba Message—Tunisian Foreign Minister Hedi Mabrouk arrived to deliver a "verbal message" from President Habib Bourguiba to President Hafiz al-Asad on "current Arab developments and the dangers threatening the Arab homeland," SANA announced. In a further report, Damascus radio noted that Mabrouk met with his Syrian counterpart and discussed the upcoming Arab summit as well as bilateral relations.

Tunisia

Prime Minister Zine Labedine Ben Ali announced President Bourguiba's decision to carry out "a partial and technical" government reshuffle, Tunis radio reported. The changes included: Slaheddine Ben M'barek was appointed minister of the national economy; Nouri Zorgati is the new minister of finance; Ismail Khalil was moved from being finance and economy minister to being the new governor of the Central Bank with minister status; and the former bank governor and energy and mines minister were removed "to undertake other duties."

Libya

According to "sources close to Colonel Mu'ammar Al-Qadhdhafi," special Syrian forces have replaced the leader's Libyan security guards, Cairo Voice of the Arabs radio reported.

Sudan

Ethiopian Ties—There is a new trend in Sudan-Ethiopia relations which will result in "major benefits on the political, diplomatic, and security levels," a Sudanese information official said after meeting with a visiting Ethiopian delegation, SUNA reported. He added that Ethiopia will play "a major role" in reaching a cease-fire in southern Sudan. Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, however, was quoted by SUNA as saying that the Ethiopian delegation's visit "is not connected with the southern Sudan issue."

Schools Reopen—Classes resumed in all Khartoum schools 27 October after being closed for almost a month following student demonstrations over price increases and a government agreement with the IMF, SUNA noted.

Afghanistan

Two American journalists who were preparing a documentary on the conflict in Afghanistan were reported to have been killed in an ambush by Soviet-Afghan troops near Kabul, Islamabad radio announced.

Inter-Arab Affairs

'Sources' on Syrian-Egyptian Meetings in Amman

NC280703 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0615 GMT 28 Oct 87

[Text] Diplomatic sources have disclosed that Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has held three meetings with Egyptian presidential adviser Usamah al-Baz in Amman. The same sources expect Egypt to return to the Arab League in the near future at the earnest request of certain Arab capitals that have worked for this.

Egypt Not Invited To Attend Amman Summit

JN271428 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 27 Oct 87

[Text] An informed source in Amman stated today that all Arab countries, as well as the PLO, will attend the extraordinary Arab summit to be held in Amman on 8 November. Egypt is the only Arab country that was not invited to the summit, due to the suspension of its Arab League membership after it signed a peace treaty with Israel in 1979.

The Jordanian source also told AFP that most Arab countries will participate in the summit at the head of state level, with the exception of Algeria and Libya. These states have said they will attend the summit but have not specified their level of representation.

What is important is that this summit will bring Arab leaders together for the first time since the extraordinary Arab summit in Casablanca in 1985, which was boycotted by Syria and Algeria.

Observers believe that the extraordinary summit in Amman has acquired special importance. This is because the conferees will either adopt a joint Arab stand toward all or most of the proposed topics or exacerbate the current Arab division.

Jordan, which maintains good and balanced relations with all Arab countries, will naturally work for the success of this summit. Although Jordan may give the Gulf conflict priority, due to the current situation, it does not object to discussing all issues of common concern, especially the Palestinian question, the Arab-Israeli conflict, and the Lebanese crisis.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat on Hostages, Conference, Arab Summit

JN271347 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 27 Oct 87

[Text] During his meeting with participants in the 21st conference of the international union of French-speaking journalists in Tunis, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat expressed optimism about the fate of Western hostages in Lebanon. He said: Something will happen in the near future; do not ask me to say more. He noted that the PLO had exerted secret efforts to release the hostages and that it will continue these efforts.

'Arafat also said that Syria and the PLO had exchanged messages but did not disclose their contents. He added that friendly countries and Palestinian figures were trying to reconcile the two sides. We sent two messages to Syria asking for time to answer the second message, he said.

He asserted that he is ready to meet with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir or any other Israeli official within the framework of an international peace conference on the Middle East.

He also accused the United States and some European countries of pressuring the Soviet Union to allow Soviet Jews to emigrate to Israel in return for inviting the Soviet Union to participate in an international peace conference on the Middle East. He added that the PLO will hold frank discussions with Soviet officials on the emigration of Soviet Jews. 'Arafat, who toured several Arab countries, affirmed that the idea of an international conference will be listed on the agenda of the emergency Arab summit conference being actively prepared.

'Arafat Leaves Tunis for Talks in Morocco

JN271900 Baghdad INA in English 1600 GMT 27 Oct 87

[Text] Tunis, Oct. 26, INA—Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), Yasir 'Arafat left here today for Morocco on a first time visit within six months. Palestinian sources told INA correspondent here that during the visit Mr 'Arafat will hold talks with King Hassan of Morocco on bilateral relations, the Arab situation and the Paletinian issue. The sources added that Mr 'Arafat will also visit Nouakchott and Riyadh to hold similar talks with the officials there.

Zagreb Weekly Interviews 'Arafat on Middle East

AU261603 Zagreb DANAS in Serbo-Croatian No 394 6 Oct 87 pp 47-50

[Interview with Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, by Hido Biscevic; date and place not given]

[Text] *Danas*: Comrade 'Arafat, we have met each other several times on different occasions. Therefore, right at the beginning I will ask a very simple question: How are you feeling today? What is it that now worries you most?

'Arafat: What worries me most? Ha, ha....everything worries me. First of all, I am preoccupied most by the need for us Palestinians to closely follow the dialogue between the two superpowers, for they will not talk just about strategic weapons and nuclear bombs in Europe. Anyway, they themselves speak about eight hotbeds of

crisis being at the center of their attention. That means that our Palestinian question is also a subject of talks today and that we must carefully observe what is taking place on the eve of the meeting between Reagan and Gorbachev to see the outcome and to predict where things will go after the meeting.

In addition, as far as the Middle East is concerned, I am preoccupied with preparations for the coming Arab summit in Amman. I think that great efforts should be invested with a view to ensuring the success of that meeting, particularly because of the importance of the topics that will be on the agenda in accordance with the decision of the Arab League. There are three main issues here: the Gulf war, the Palestinian problem, and the war in Lebanon. In this connection, I am worried about the latest decision by Amal to abandon the agreement we recently achieved to stop the so-called war over the camps. Well, fighting around the Shatila camp was resumed today.

Danas: When we look at the present Middle East picture, this is what we see: The Gulf war is spreading its dangerous and dark shadow over the entire region. The situation in Lebanon is not changing. Almost all political and social challenges are still smoldering and remain a threat. The idea of an international peace conference is at the center of widespread attention, but it is still burdened with different possibilities....

'Arafat: Not different possibilities, different expectations.

Danas: In any case, that picture is at the same time full of certain signs of possible breakthroughs. Is this really a historical period for the Arab world with only two roads: one leading toward peace, independence, and development and the other toward sectarianism, divisions, fanaticism?

'Arafat: In my opinion, we undoubtedly are witnessing a plot to create, for instance in Lebanon, separate, sectarian, cantonal, divided, and quarreling ministates. This is exactly the beginning of a process that we usually call the "Balkanization" of the Middle East.

Danas: In a certain way, the Gulf war is also a part of that story. If nothing else, for years that war has served as a smoke screen for certain forces and protagonists to hide various schemes and plans in the Middle East and also to push the Palestinian question into the background....

'Arafat: To what is happening in Palestine and Lebanon, one should certainly add the conflagration of the Iranian-Iraqi war, a conflagration that increases the danger for the entire region. What is happening today? Take, for instance, the increase in the American naval fleet. In my opinion, one should be very careful so that this does not become the start of a permanent military presence in the Gulf region. This makes me think there is actually no serious intention to stop this war. More probably everything amounts to efforts to limit and restrict it, but to allow it to continue.

Danas: Sort of "keeping reins on" the entire war, as a permanent card in the hole?

'Arafat: Yes, restricting and limiting, together with continuing.

Danas: Does this mean you believe that the American presence in the Gulf region today also has potential dangers and that it is not motivated solely by proclamations on the need to stop the war?

'Arafat: What we have here is a physical presence. This is why the Soviets are demanding the withdrawal of all forces from the region. They know very well what this is all about.

Danas: On the eve of the Arab summit in Amman, Arab unity has again become the "topic of the day," regardless of what the experience with this slogan may have been so far. Events of recent weeks show that there have nevertheless been some changes, that we are witnessing reconciliation and rapprochement—let us just mention the triangle of Syria, Jordan, and Iraq—and that there are indications of changes in some other countries as well, let me just mention Libya. Is this a real change or only a reflection of something that one could call "Persian pressure" or "fear of the Persians"?

'Arafat: Yes, something is changing. We will have to follow events very closely and carefully look at what the future brings. In my opinion, a complete change of alliances will occur in the entire region and there will possibly be changes in political maps of that part of the world.

Danas: In what respect?

'Arafat: I cannot speak about that in more detail as yet. The time for details has not yet come, but I am giving you hints—what you journalists call "flash" news.

Danas: Good, but in view of the kind of suppositions you have made, as well as in view of present inter-Arab relations, do you feel that all Arab countries support the Palestinian struggle, that it is not possible to expect changes? I am asking you this because of the Palestinian position on the eve of the peace conference.

'Arafat: The majority of the Arab countries support the Palestinian revolution and the PLO today. Is there any possibility that some of them will abandon this position? Well, it is our task now to closely watch the American pressure on Jordan because its goal is to make a change in Jordan's position. In addition, one should also take into consideration the Jordanian-Syrian connection. But I cannot go into details about this matter either.

Danas: What we are actually talking about is the danger of the Palestinian cause being "sold" in the name of individual state interests....

'Arafat: Nobody, nobody can either buy or sell the Palestinian revolution. Very many have tried to do that many times. But we are too hard a nut to be cracked so easily. You should remember what Begin and Al-Sadat said after Camp David: "Never again war." And what happened? That same year we had the first war in Lebanon, 3 years later another one, and in 1982 the third war—the 8-day Arab-Israeli military confrontation after which came the longest, the most important, and most successful "war of attrition" between the Israelis and the Palestinians and their Lebanese allies, the war that is, after all, continuing today.

Sharon made Begin say that the operation "Peace for Galilee" would ensure another 40 years of peace and a comfortable life and security for Israel...without our "Katyushas." And what happened then? Where is Begin today and where is Sharon? And our "Katyushas" still roar.

Danas: Yes, except, it is not just Israel, but also the readiness of certain Arab regimes to enter into various arrangements through which they are trying to decide the fate of the Palestinians. After all, it was on such soil that the seedling of Israeli-Jordanian agreement, agreement between King Husayn and Shimon Peres, has grown recently. What is the nature of this arrangement?

'Arafat: It all boils down to a way to ensure the implementation of an Israeli-Jordanian agreement and to finding guarantees. In reality, they want to eliminate the PLO. Everything boils down to that old so-called Jordanian option. You see, the basic difference in the positions of the top Israeli leaders is the following: The Labor Party wants to solve the problem by creating a dual state, joint rule with Jordan on the West Bank and in Gaza. On the other hand, Shamir and Likud want to solve the problem by creating bantustans in those regions. And a small group of extreme fanatics in Israel sees the solution in expelling all 2.2 million Palestinians from Palestine.

Danas: It seems to me that this agreement, although halted now, also confirms how quickly and often unexpectedly relationships in that part of the world change....

'Arafat: ...all that is quicksand....

Danas: ...in which, for instance, the present role of Egypt is completely different from that of a few years ago. How do you assess the position President Mubarak has toward the Palestinian cause? I have heard that there was a desire to include Cairo into the arrangements between Peres and King Husayn.

'Arafat: It is very important to stress that attempts to create discord between us and the Egyptians have existed and still exist. However, they are unsuccessful. I met with President Mubarak twice recently, the last time in Cairo a few days ago. On both occasions, the Egyptians stressed their principled position and clearly said what they are advocating. They support an international peace conference that would include all five permanent members of the Security Council and all parties to the conflict—thus, the PLO as well. In addition, they say that, yes, we need Resolution 242 of the Security Council, but we also need Palestinian rights, including the right to self-determination.

Danas: However, this is only one side of your position in the Arab world. You also must take the standpoints of Damascus into consideration. I do not know whether you know that a saying is already circulating among journalists to the effect that "Mubarak would like 'Arafat without the PLO and Al-Asad the PLO without 'Arafat." What do you think about that?

'Arafat: No, no, that is not true. (Now someone in the background remarks that "'Arafat wants Mubarak without Camp David," which provokes 'Arafat to protest even more because of all these simplifications of this matter) No, that should not be taken seriously and it is not true at all. Nobody anywhere in the world today, not even in Syria, believes any longer that it is possible to separate 'Arafat from the PLO or the PLO from 'Arafat. You see, I am here with you as 'Arafat, chairman of the Executive Committee. When I resign, when I leave... well, then I will be Yasir 'Arafat, civil engineer.

Danas: It is clear to me that 'Arafat is a symbol and that Yasir 'Arafat is your name. But, you know very well what I mean—what are your relations with Syria actually like today?

'Arafat: Well, I would say that they are not active. Although some contacts have been made at various levels, there have still been no positive results so far. True, they say that we are behind Nabih Birri's initiative in connection with discontinuing the so-called war over camps. However, as we can see, that agreement is not being implemented.

Danas: After an extensive period of factionalism, Palestinian unity was restored at the National Council meeting in Algeria several months ago. However, from many sides they still are commenting that this unity is more the result of tactical requirements than a reflection of basic harmony. What is your comment on that?

'Arafat: No, such remarks are not correct. What happened in Algeria was actually the result of the unity of our people—unity between the masses and fighters. There, in the real world, in the field, this unity is obvious and strong. You see what is happening in the occupied territories and in our refugee camps in Lebanon. Our unity is confirmed there every day.

Danas: I have heard that an important meeting of the PLO Central Council is to be held. Which topics will dominate there? What do you expect from that meeting?

'Arafat: This will be a very important meeting because we will discuss the current situation in the occupied territories, the situation in Lebanon—particularly in light of the latest developments in connection with the so-called war over the camps—and questions pertaining to the international conference; that is, its organization and the preparations for it. Also necessary are our preparations for the Amman summit, as well as the need to evaluate our own achievements over the past period to see what we have done since the Algerian meeting of the National Council.

Danas: I have heard that you are due to visit the Soviet Union. You said at the beginning that you needed to closely follow the superpowers' talks about the Middle East, and thus about the Palestinians as well, on the eve of the meeting between Reagan and Gorbachev. What do you expect from the visit to Moscow?

'Arafat: Yes, we have received an invitation to attend the October Revolution anniversary celebrations. However, that takes place almost at the same time as the Arab summit, which is scheduled for 8 November....

Danas: ...so, how about organizing the Arab summit in Moscow?

'Arafat: Oh, oh....I would have nothing against it. However, what would the others say?

Danas: ...or to celebrate the October Revolution anniversary in Amman!? Well, joking aside, what do you expect from the talks with the Soviet leaders? To put it very simply: Are you going to the Soviet Union to try to prevent something or to achieve something?

'Arafat: Of course, I am going there to achieve something—to ensure our role at an international peace conference and to convince myself of the steadiness and balance of our Soviet friends' stands in their confrontation with the other side, with Israel and the Americans. That is the main purpose. It is important for us today that the Soviet Union is talking directly with us, that the communication is direct and not through Syria or somebody else. This is undoubtedly a positive development and for the Soviets we are undoubtedly an independent, individual factor in the Middle East.

Danas: ....but in the past there had been some coolness, just as there was an important Soviet role in achieving Palestinian unity in Algeria. Am I right?

'Arafat: The most important thing for us is that there was a positive turn in Palestinian-Soviet relations after my meeting with Comrade Gorbachev in Berlin, that the Soviets helped and supported the Palestinian-Arab dialogue, and that they talked directly with us, without mediators and without other partners from the Middle East. In addition, the Soviets stress the importance of convening a peace conference that would include the PLO and seek methods and ways by which such a conference could lead to realizing Palestinian national rights and self-determination.

Danas: On the other hand, Shim'on Peres has come from a meeting with Shevardnadze in New York and asserted that "he has the impression" that the Soviets are not insisting so strongly that the PLO participate in the peace conference.

'Arafat: You see, I have received a message from Abu al-Lutf (Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department; at this point 'Arafat shows the message and reads its contents). He met the Soviet minister after his meeting with Peres. So, see what the message says: The Soviets are stressing three things. First, the need to implement Resolution 242; that is, the withdrawal of Israel from the occupied territories. Second, attaining Palestinian national rights, including the right to self-determination. Third, the Soviets think that an international peace conference must be organized in such a way that there will be a permanent plenary committee together with committees for individual fields and topics, including a committee for territorial and geographical questions. Finally, the Soviets believe it is the PLO that must decide on the form in which the Palestinians will participate in the conference.

Danas: However, it is difficult to deny that we are witnessing a certain diplomatic opening between Israel and the Soviets.

'Arafat: As far as that is concerned, I have already said that I am sure that this depends on Israel's readiness to accept the peace conference. If there are positive results in that respect, diplomatic relations themselves will not be a problem. This was, after all, confirmed to us by the Soviet delegation led by Polyakov with whom we met in Sanaa. This was the message we have been exchanging with Moscow all the time.

Danas: It is obvious that the main problem at this stage is the form of Palestinian attendance at this conference, together with the discussions about the conference's mandate, authority, and the power of its decisions. More than a year ago you presented various ideas about the form of Palestinian attendance: Official PLO, people from the West Bank and Gaza who are close to the PLO, a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, a joint Arab delegation.... Tell us, what is in fact your "negotiating minimum"?

'Arafat: Our stand is the following: We will be represented either by a separate PLO delegation or within a joint Arab delegation that would include on an equal footing all Arab countries participating in the Middle East conflict. That is our minimum.

Danas: You have mentioned three groups in Israel. Two of them are against the peace conference and the third is against the PLO's participation in the conference. Generally speaking, the world has the impression now that there are great differences between Mr Peres and Mr Shamir and that internal resistance is hindering Mr Peres' attempts to move in the direction of peace. What do you think about such interpretations? Do you actually believe Peres wants what he says he wants?

'Arafat: You should know that everything that Peres says boils down to the intention to establish a dual state on the West Bank and in Gaza and to share power over us with Jordan. Moreover, it is a dual state on a part of the West Bank and a part of Gaza, on the most densely populated regions. Shamir, on the other hand, says: No, we do not want dual states, we should prepare bantustans for the Palestinians, even in Israel, in Galilee, in the Negev Desert....

As far as Peres is concerned, one should openly say it is a dual state. Just imagine, a division of power so that Jordanians have administrative power—administration, police, and so on—and Israelis hold military security. As far as I am concerned, the entire difference between Peres and Shamir is that one wants a dual state and the other bantustans. To me, both Likud and the Labor Party are symbols of the "iron hand," only that Mr Peres is trying to pull a velvet glove over it.

Danas: In opposing the PLO's participation in the peace process, Shim'on Peres always claims—and reiterated this in a recent interview to *Danas*—that "the PLO has never been elected." How do you...

'Arafat: And how was he elected? Has he been elected? I invite him to participate in the elections on the West Bank and in Gaza! Can he win? Our people decide on this, not he—a colonizer, an occupier, and a racist. He has no right at all to say who has or has not been elected. Our people have decided and voted. All ballots and the results of the elections on the West Bank and in Gaza have shown for whom our people have decided. Peres can see from this what elections are. After all, what is our National Council if not a legal and elected body that represents all Palestinian political and social organizations, all social strata, and all representatives of the Palestinian diaspora from the Palestinian Congress in North America to the Palestinian Congress in South America.

The National Council is an elected body that represents all our people—in the occupied territories as well as in the diaspora. I invite Peres to implement the kind of democracy I am implementing in my organization! As an example, let us see what kind of democracy is involved here: He has decided that his people who talked with me and who met with us should be put on trial! Where is democracy there? They limit their citizens' freedom and suddenly say that our people have not made a free choice!

If things are as Peres says they are, why then does Minister 'Ezer Weizman, his colleague in the government, at the same time suggest to me the creation of a Palestinian-Israeli confederation!? Well, when Peres talks like that, the only thing left for me is to ask myself whether he is really capable of making such mistakes. You know, those who live in glass houses should not throw stones!

Danas: We are, nevertheless, witnessing some changes in Israel—peace forces are becoming stronger. After all, your people have had increasingly frequent contacts with individual members of peace groups and parties. Since debates among the Palestinians about this matter used to be very bitter, even fatal for some of the participants...is this now a strategic orientation?

'Arafat: We still insist on cooperation with those forces. While doing so, we bear in mind that if one peace group becomes stronger, the reaction of the opposite extremist group will be even more intensive and violent. However, our political approach conforms with the resolutions that we adopted at the National Council meeting and those resolutions are binding on us in this respect.

Danas: Are there any ideological connotations in the decision to hold contacts with those forces in Israel? Do you actually believe that the democratic transformation of Israeli society is the road toward solving the crisis?

'Arafat: This orientation of ours can help in that area. It seems to me, however, that you are stressing this a bit too much, that you see more in it perhaps than there really is. As far as ideological additions are concerned....no, what is involved is solely a political decision.

Danas: Since we have already mentioned the term "opening," I will ask you the following question very openly and directly, irrespective of my own opinion: How do you react to the thesis that Moscow cannot play a larger role in the Middle East without "opening" toward Israel?

'Arafat: That is not true. Those are Israeli slogans and propaganda. Now let us talk openly! What does Israel mean to either of the superpowers? Well, the superpowers make agreements and even hold talks without other big powers—they even exclude the others sometimes! And do you think they would not exclude Israel? Surely, you do not intend to say that you believe those slogans. You see, the Arab world has the following saying: "If the speaker is crazy, let at least the listener be more clever."

Danas: Yugoslavia has recently been more active in holding dialogues with peace forces in Israel. Contacts have been made, people are coming and they talk, they meet....

'Arafat: The Yugoslav comrades have told us what is happening, what kind of contacts they are holding, and what their nature is. This includes the visit by the

secretary of the Mapam Party (United Workers Party, an advocate of negotiations with Palestinian organizations which recognize Israel—remark by the translator). I think that open talks about those topics also confirm the strength, continuity, and coordination that exist between us and your country.

Danas: In that respect, the need has been often mentioned recently for Yugoslavia to play a larger, more active role and to take upon itself a greater responsibility in the peacemaking process. How do you view the potential larger role to be played by Yugoslavia?

'Arafat: You see, we should by no means neglect the fact that Yugoslavia is a member of the so-called Committee of Nine in the Nonaligned Movement, the very committee dealing with Palestinian questions and the Middle East crisis. Since the Harare conference, this committee has been a very significant political instrument. Second, I will tell you that, in my opinion, it is by no means incidental that Yugoslavia will for the third time be a member of the Security Council in this very significant, perhaps decisive period in solving the Palestinian question and the Middle East crisis. Remember, in 1956, in 1973, and now....Yugoslavia was a member of the Security Council during these three key periods. For me, this is a very important fact.

Danas: Do you, therefore, believe that such an active role that Yugoslavia is playing can be connected with what it will be doing when the time comes for concrete preparations in the Security Council for the peace conference?

'Arafat: Absolutely.

Paper Reports Moves To Mend PLO-Syrian Rift

PM271705 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 17 Oct 87 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Palestinian Sources Tell *Al-Sharq al-Awsat*: Syrian Leadership Studies PLO Reactions on Restoring Relations"]

[Text] The Syrian leadership is presently studying Palestinian reactions to its inquiries concerning the restoration and normalization of relations between Damascus and the PLO leadership.

Palestinian sources have told *Al-Sharq al-Awsat* that Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam told Palestinian businessman Hasib al-Sabbagh during their meeting last week that Damascus was studying the responses carried by him clarifying the PLO position concerning outstanding Arab and Palestinian issues in particular and Palestinian contacts with certain Jewish groups inside and outside the occupied territories.

The sources added that there is a mutual and serious desire by both sides for a dialogue and it is likely that bilateral meetings will take place before the emergency summit in Amman. Palestinian sources link this new positive trend and the current meetings to the aim of easing the situation in the Palestinian camps in Lebanon. Syrian forces there are supervising these meetings.

Within this framework, PLO Executive Chairman Yasir 'Arafat will begin his visit to Moscow on 3 November. PLO spokesman Ahmad 'Abd al-Rahman said that a large delegation will accompany the Palestinian leader.

Algeria

Iran's Nabavi Meets With Industry Ministers

LD270709 Tehran IRNA in English 0649 GMT 27 Oct 87

[Text] Algiers, Oct. 27, IRNA—Iranian Heavy Industries Minister Behzad Nabavi arrived here Monday at the head of a ranking delegation for the First Iran-Algeria cooperation commission. Upon arrival here he told reporters that political, cultural and economic relations between Iran and Algeria will be the major topics in his talks with the Algerian officials here. He expressed hope that during his visit here the two countries would lay a new foundation for bilateral economic relations.

The Iranian official met with Algerian ministers of heavy and light industries here Monday where they expressed regret over the low volume of trade exchanges between the two countries which they maintained is inconsistent with the close political ties between the two countries.

Algerian light industry minister Zitouni Messaoudi said to Nabavi that he is happy to witness that the Islamic revolution eventually did without the protege regime of the shah. He expressed hope that the revolutions in Iran and Algeria would continue their progress in the common interest of both nations.

In response the visiting Iranian minister appreciated the friendly views of the Algerian official towards the Islamic revolution and expressed hope that the first Iran-Algeria cooperation would help further the relations between the two country. [as received]

Received by Prime Minister

LD272016 Tehran IRNA in English 1625 GMT 27 Oct 87

[Text] Algiers, Oct. 27, IRNA—Visiting Iranian Minister of Heavy Industries Behzad Nabavi met with Algerian Prime Minister Abdelhamid Brahimi here Tuesday. Among the topics discussed by the two were Tehran-Algiers ties, ways to expand bilateral relations in various fields and other issues of mutual interest.

Meanwhile, Nabavi and Algerian Commerce Minister Mostefa Benamar attended the opening session of the joint Tehran-Algiers Cooperation Commission here today. Nabavi and Benamar underlined the necessity to promote Iran-Algeria political, economic, cultural and scientific ties in an effort to further serve the interests of the two Muslim countries.

They also agreed to set up four joint committees for industrial, commercial and cultural cooperation as well as a coordination committee. The committees are to explore ways to further expand Tehran-Algiers politico-cultural ties and to establish firm economic relations between the two countries during the stay of the Iranian delegation here.

The Iranian heavy industries minister heading a political, economic and cultural delegation arrived here Monday.

Chad

Libyans Overfly Fada; Cease-Fire 'Violated'

AB271927 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1855 GMT 27 Oct 87

[Text] As our country prepares to welcome the heads of state of the member countries of the CBC [Lake Chad Basin Commission] and the ABN [Niger River Development Authority], and especially just days before the deadline for Chad and Libya to submit their documents to the OAU ad hoc committee charged with finding a peaceful solution to our conflict with that country, the Libyan Air Force again violated the cease-fire requested by the OAU by flying over the town of Fada at 1600 today.

Ndjamena Radio Comments on Libyan Policies

Views Strategy in Sudan

AB280648 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 27 Oct 87

[[Name indistinct] commentary]

[Text] A large Libyan military convoy has just arrived in Sudan's Darfur Province, which borders Chad. We have long known that this Sudanese province plays host to thousands of gamblers and mercenaries from Tripoli. Their mission is to nip the FANT in the eastern part of Chad and to attack our country. What is new about this situation is not so much Libya's presence in Darfur Province but rather the method employed by the dictatorial regime in Tripoli. The current strategy consists of concealing war materiel under the agricultural equipment being unloaded at night to avoid detection. This old method cannot mask the military preparations aimed at invading our country from Sudan. What is strange here is the (?silence) of Sudanese officials, who for fear of seeing the petro-dollar tap closed to them, shut their eyes to these bellicose maneuvers, which in no way honor the age-old friendly relations binding the Chadian and Sudanese peoples. What the Khartoum leaders forgot in selling their conscience is that they were selling Darfur Province to the Libyans. This disgraceful act of turning their region into a gunpowder plant may cost them dearly, very dearly, tomorrow.

Fortunately, national consciousness, patriotism, and an awareness of the need to preserve the country's national integrity are virtues that can still be found in Sudan. Proof of this is that the people of Darfur have always taken every opportunity to demonstrate their hostility to these maneuvers, whose objective is to sell their region to the barbaric horde that has (?mistreated) the Libyan people for nearly 2 decades. The aggressors are so conscious of this fact that they cannot pass through Darfur Province by day with their war arsenal. They

should know that in the face of the people's vindication, they cannot do anything, because vox populi vox Dei, the desire of the people is the desire of God. The brotherly people of Sudan must continue on this patriotic path to crush this vermin of Al-Qadhdhafi and take drastic measures to prevent his venom from spreading to their country. The Sudanese people must shoulder their responsibility. This is because the war equipment being shipped to their country by the facist group in Tripoli will be used, first and foremost, to destroy the Chadian people. It will also be used to launch a tribal war in their country.

For their part, the Chadian people support the Sudanese people in their efforts to exorcise the devil that is Al-Qadhdhafi. We must not lose sight of the fact that the (?power-hungry man) in Tripoli continues his slave-trading practices by buying the Sudanese [words indistinct]. We must fight on two fronts by preserving the territorial integrity of our two countries and by defending our personality as black men. To this end, we have a weapon the slave traders do not. It is determination [words indistinct].

Examines Ties With Arabs, OAU

AB271011 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 26 Oct 87

[Station commentary]

[Text] Libya continues its preparations to attack Chad. The massing of forces, the recruitment of mercenaries, and above all, the violation of Chadian airspace are frequent events as the meeting of the OAU ad hoc committee's experts in Libreville draws near.

Libya continues to violate Chadian airspace. With only 4 days left until the OAU ad hoc committee meets in Libreville, Gabon, Tripoli prefers to persist in violating our airspace, in line with the traditional scorn it has shown not only the OAU but also the United Nations and other international organizations. It is the entire black world that the shameless dictator of Tripoli hates most of all. Recognizing that the Libreville meeting will put an end to his diplomatic maneuvers, Al-Qadhdhafi is going all out—violating Chadian airspace, recruiting mercenaries intensively, especially Arabs, and massing troops on Chad's eastern and northern borders. These military maneuvers will not escape the attention of the OAU, which is resolutely committed to ending the Chad-Libya conflict.

On several occasions, Al-Qadhdhafi has drawn a curtain between the OAU and his barbarous and annexationist regime, which for a long time put the pan-African organization to sleep and made it hesitate on this issue. Today, the continent is awake and aware of the Chad-Libya conflict. It has begun the irreversible process of settling the conflict based on legal and historical documents. Now, only 4 days before the Libreville meeting, Al-Qadhdhafi has (?resumed) his cynical activities, which seek to draw certain Arab countries into a compromising position. Iran has now joined the Arabs in supporting Al-Qadhdhafi in his war against Chad. Tehran should at least finish its own war before throwing itself into one that does not concern it at all.

This is also true of Walid Junblatt, who has abandoned his national responsibilities in Lebanon to blindly follow Al-Qadhdhafi. There are also other Palestinians, a wandering people chased out from all sides [words indistinct] these Palestinians who line up behind Al-Qadhdhafi to fight against Chad. But our country, through the voice of its president, Hissein Habre, supports the Palestinian people's struggle. They are really ungrateful, these Palestinians.

Sudan, which has stuck to its [word indistinct] position against Chad, has severely strained the good relations of cooperation that have always existed between Khartoum and Ndjamena. In short, all these Arab countries, and others that support Libya's policy of aggression and occupation in Chad, have undertaken an [word indistinct] adventure instead of getting rid of Al-Qadhdhafi, who has continued his policy of force as the only way of settling disputes. Ever since the current OAU chairman, Kenneth Kaunda, appealed to Chad and Libya to observe an indefinite cease-fire, Al-Qadhdhafi has used force. However, we hope that these repeated violations of Chadian airspace are being closely monitored by OAU members and that they will [word indistinct] the aggressor—Libya.

Egypt

Mubarak Interviewed on Kuwait Attack, Gulf War

NC272237 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2200 GMT 27 Oct 87

[Text] Cairo, 27 Oct (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has stated that the current danger in the Gulf region is not confined to Kuwait alone but will affect all other Arab countries. He said: So long as we remain divided, the disease will spread from one country to another. Therefore, I demand that an Arab summit conference be held every 4 months. There is no excuse for the last Arab summit being held in 1983. He affirmed that Arab summit meetings would cause anyone persisting in wrongdoing to feel ashamed in the face of the Arab gathering he stands against.

In a statement to Ahmad al-Jarallah, chief editor of the Kuwaiti newspaper *Al-Siyasah*, Mubarak said: When the Iranian attack on the Kuwaiti oil platform occurred, I thought of visiting Kuwait to talk with Kuwaiti ruler Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad. However, I did not want to embarrass anyone just before the Arab summit. When the Presidency issued a statement on this aggression, we meant every word. This statement expresses in letter and spirit our position. When a danger threatens Kuwait, it is

an ugly thing. If the Arab nation fails to assess the situation well, then I think the specter will be very serious: Arab fragmentation and countries unable to find solutions.

Mubarak stressed that relations with Kuwait or Saudi Arabia or any other Arab country have never been severed. He stressed that our basic relations are with the Arab nation and that Kuwait is a fraternal country whose entity and survival with dignity and sovereignty concern us.

Mubarak pointed out that a minority of Arab countries are concerned only about benefiting from the current situation. He asked: If we blame certain foreign countries for supporting Iran, what is the excuse of the Arab countries cooperating with Iran? He pointed out that pro-Iranian groups in Lebanon will turn against the Arab countries that support them in the future. He said: So long as there are parties that assist Iran, try to benefit from it, and follow it, Iran will continue to strike at the Arab nation. Iran struck at Iraq; now it strikes at Kuwait. Which country will it strike tomorrow?

Mubarak referred to the events of the past pilgrimage season, saying that these and similar actions are lessons and that it is time we learned from them. He affirmed that there has been no contact between him and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad since the Islamic summit conference in Kuwait in February. He said: I still extend my hand to Syria as an Arab country. He stressed that King Husayn of Jordan is exerting great efforts and so are we. He asserted that Iraq is steadfast and can confront the Iranians. Should Iran succeed in infringing on Iraq, Mubarak stated, it will not stop and it will not leave the other Arab countries alone.

Regarding an international conference for peace in the Middle East, Mubarak said that holding this conference is inevitable. He added: "My concern for the Arab nation prompts me to say frankly that I am apprehensive about our future as an Arab country. I have called on the Arabs before to meet, without Egypt, to chart a strategy to achieve national security. We have the resources to reach a unified stand and course. For this reason, I always say: O Arabs, you must sit down together to formulate a unified strategy. Agree on the goals, provided the methods of implementation are flexible."

Turning to the domestic situation, Mubarak affirmed that Egypt is proceeding along a path of sound economic reform after passing through a most difficult period. He said: "I encourage anyone engaged in productive work, however small. It is our responsibility to assist low-income people as much as we can."

Mubarak then asserted that he always feels optimistic and hopeful, because without these feelings it would be difficult to work. He noted that the presidential post is not a benefit, but a responsibility and constant work. Mubarak continued: "I have found that I must continue to serve my country to guarantee continuing rates of growth and economy." He added: "I listen to all views and take them into consideration. I do not act according to an erroneous view, because I would be responsible eventually." My responsibility is to do my utmost to improve the standard of living of the needy segments of society, he concluded.

Mubarak To Visit Sudan 'Within Next Few Days'

JN271254 Baghdad INA in English 1245 GMT 27 Oct 87

[Text] Cairo, Oct 27, INA—Egyptian President Husni Mubarak will pay a visit to Sudan within the next few days in reply to an official invitation from the Sudanese Government. Press sources told INA that President Mubarak will hold talks with Sudanese Premier Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi on Arab and African current issues of common concern and bilateral relations in all fields. The sources added that Egyptian Premier 'Atif Sidqi will also pay an official visit to Sudan in the middle of next month for signing the fraternity charter defining relations between the two countries.

Military Spokesman Denies Aid Sent to Kuwait

JN271435 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 26 Oct 87 p 1

[Text] Egyptian Defense Ministry spokesman Colonel Naji al-Tuhami has denied a report published by London's *The Sunday Times* yesterday that Egypt has sent military aid to Kuwait. He added that Egypt has not sent any pilots to Kuwait. *The Sunday Times*, citing unnamed diplomatic sources, said that the military aid to Kuwait has already begun and that 70 Egyptian pilots and support personnel had arrived in Kuwait last week to join an earlier group of Egyptian air defense experts to help the Kuwaitis confront Iranian attacks. *The Sunday Times* also said that a high-ranking Egyptian military delegation left for Kuwait last week to discuss Kuwait's military hardware needs.

Agriculture Minister Receives Greek Counterpart

NC271605 Cairo MENA in English 1350 GMT 27 Oct 87

[Text] Cairo, Oct 27 (MENA)—Dr Yusuf Wali, deputy premier and minister of agriculture and land reclamation, today discussed with Greek Minister of Agriculture Ioannis Pottakis means of developing cooperation between the two countries in the field of developing aquatic wealth, the breeding of fish in artificial ponds, greenhouse agriculture and fighting pest diseases. The two sides agreed to exchange expertise and data in the field of the trade and marketing of cereals and development of sponge production in Mediterranean countries. It was agreed to discuss the last subject with experts from the European Community.

Dr Wali and the visiting Greek minister will tomorrow sign an agreement for agricultural cooperation between the countries. The agreement will define fields of cooperation between the two countries in the coming stage.

Subjects to be included in the agreement will be discussed by a joint committee which will meet today. The Greek minister of agriculture arrived in Cairo yesterday on a five-day visit to acquaint himself with agricultural projects and researches in Cairo, Al-Jizah and the Nile Delta province of Kafr al-Shaykh.

Pakistani Navy Commander Arrives in Cairo
NC271539 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1408 GMT 27 Oct 87

[Text] Cairo, 27 Oct (MENA)—Admiral Iftikhar Sirohi, supreme commander of the Pakistani Naval Forces, arrived in Cairo this afternoon on a cordial visit to Egypt.

Finnish Parliamentarians Arrive for Talks
NC280949 Cairo MENA in English 2240 GMT 27 Oct 87

[Text] Cairo, Oct 27 (MENA)—A Finnish parliamentary delegation arrived here tonight from Amman for a three-day visit to Egypt within a tour of the countries of the region which has taken it so far to Syria and Jordan. In an arrival statement, the chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Finnish parliament, who is heading the delegation, said the ten-day tour is aimed at exploring facts and following up the political events in the region, in addition to promoting the parliamentary relations between Finland and Egypt. He said the delegation, which will be heading at the end of its visit to Cairo for Israel on a two-day visit after which it will return to Finland, will be having meetings with top-ranking officials in Egypt.

Syrian Pilots Said Protecting Al-Qadhdhafi
NC280719 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 2055 GMT 27 Oct 87

[From the "Voice of the Libyan People" program]

[Text] Sources close to Al-Qadhdhafi have disclosed that he has issued secret instructions on the basis of which Libyan security guards patrolling the special establishments and places frequented by the colonel have been replaced by personnel from three Syrian battalions consisting of shock troops and special operations forces. The colonel's instructions come in the wake of his increasing suspicion of Libyan personnel.

The same sources added that the Syrian pilots who arrived in Tripoli recently have been distributed among several air bases. On the bases of the colonel's personal orders, the Syrian pilots have been given the task of supervising and controlling the combat units stationed at the Al-Abraq, Baninah, and 'Utayqah air bases. The Syrian pilots, who enjoy complete independence from the base units, are tasked with protecting Al-Qadhdhafi. The presence of the Syrian pilots has helped to tighten the colonel's noose around the Libyan pilots whose planes are fueled to fly for only 8 minutes at a time.

Reasons for Al-Jumayyil Cairo Visit Explored
NC271702 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1240 GMT 27 Oct 87

[Mahfuz al-Ansari commentary: The Lebanese President's Visit to Egypt, Its Reasons and Timing]

[Text] Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil paid a brief visit to Cairo last Sunday. He met privately with President Husni Mubarak and his delegation also conferred with Egyptian officials. This was not the first such visit by President al-Jumayyil to Egypt. He came and met with President Mubarak last year.

It is not hard to perceive the reasons for such a visit or the issues which were discussed during the talks. For over 12 years Lebanon has been torn by every conceivable form of battle: civil war, foreign invasion, sectarian strife, account-settling among non-Lebanese countries and powers, and last but not least, economic war. With this protracted and seemingly unending tragedy in mind, one could safely say that Lebanon and its crisis topped the agenda of Al-Jumayyil's talks in Egypt and constituted the main reason for his sudden and brief visit.

However, the visit should also be viewed in light of current regional events and the concomitant Arab and international diplomatic efforts. The reasons for the visit and its timing should be seen in view of several developments in the region:

First, the growing political role of Cairo on the Arab and international scene under the soft-pedaled diplomacy of President Husni Mubarak;

Second, the escalation of hostilities in the Gulf, particularly southwards, as certain attempts are being made to enlarge the scope of the war;

Third, the escalation of Gulf hostilities has necessitated the holding of an emergency Arab summit meeting, scheduled to be held in Amman on 8 November;

Fourth, the emergency summit meeting would most possibly discuss topics other than the Gulf conflict, a conflict which is being fomented by certain Arab quarters.

Al-Jumayyil's visit to Cairo should be seen as an outcome of all the aforesaid developments. It is a logical and appropriate move for the Lebanese president who understood the effective role of Egypt and, by doing so, was able to see the future course of events in the region.

Al-Jumayyil recently visited New York and addressed the UN General Assembly there. During this visit, he also met with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz. Back in Beirut, Al-Jumayyil met with Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy, who conveyed to him the Syrian proposal for settlement in Lebanon. Al-Jumayyil also received a plan from Nabih Birri, the pro-Syrian

Shi'ite who leads the Amal Movement, to end the camps war. It was only after 30 months of continued bombardment of the camps that Birri made his proposals for a settlement there.

President al-Jumayyil is fully aware of the maneuvers which precede such an important gathering as the Amman summit, when brinkmanship coincides with diplomatic efforts to reach solutions. This is why he took pains to explain his stands and expose the plots being hatched to unseat him. He is aware that in such a summit maneuvers are bound to surface either during the expanded or bilateral meetings held in Amman.

Recently, Damascus Radio carried a warning to Arab countries who intend to reevaluate their ties with Tehran in the light of the Iranian role in expanding the scope of hostilities in the Gulf. In a way, the warning reveals Syrian fears of the outcome of the Amman summit, not only on the Gulf question, but also with regard to Lebanon, the camps, the Arab situation in general, and Egypt's role, the role which explains in part the reason for Al-Jumayyil's visit to Cairo.

Libya

Soviet 'Worry' Over U.S. Arms for Chad Noted

LD281111 Tripoli JANA in English 0935 GMT 28 Oct 87

[Text] Moscow, Al-Tumur [October] 28, *Jamahiriyah News Agency*—The Soviet Union has expressed its worry over U.S. arms reinforcements to the clique of puppet Habre in Ndjamena.

Mr. Boris Pyadyshev, the first deputy of the chairman of information at the Soviet Foreign Ministry has pointed out that these reinforcements are conducive to threatening security and stability in the region.

At a press conference held in Moscow, Mr. Pyadyshev said that this threat is increasing simultaneously with the expansion of foreign intervention in this region.

He stresses that his country supports the efforts exerted by the Organization of African Unity to solve the problems arising among the African brotherly peoples without foreign interventions.

Algerian Heavy Industry Minister Begins Visit

LD272047 Tripoli JANA in English 1833 GMT 27 Oct 87

[Text] Tripoli, October 27, *Jamahiriyah News Agency*—"Faysal Boudraa" the Algerian minister of heavy industry and his accompanying delegation arrived this evening in Tripoli on a visit to Great Jamahiriyah.

In a statement to JANA, Faysal Boudraa expressed his and his accompanying delegation's extreme pleasure to visit Great Jamahiriyah.

He said: "This visit comes within the framework of the joint consultation and work of the Arab people of Libya and Algeria and also to follow-up the work of the Joint Supreme Committee."

Mauritania

President Taya Returns From Meeting in Mali

AB271947 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 1930 GMT 27 Oct 87

[Excerpt] Colonel Maaouya Ould Sid' Ahmed Taya, CMSN chairman and head of state, returned to Nouakchott this afternoon from Bamako where he attended the ninth meeting of the Senegal River Development Organization, OMVS. The head of state was welcomed at the foot of the ramp by Lieutenant Colonel Djibril Ould Abdellahi, minister of interior, information, and telecommunications, who was directing current issues in the absence of the head of state; Bamba Ounedi, delegate of the government and first deputy to the mayor of Nouakchott; and staff from the military and civil households of the CMSN chairman and head of state.

Col Maaouya Ould Sid' Ahmed Taya listened to the national anthem and reviewed a detachment of the Army that came to pay him honor. He later greeted members of the CMSN and the government and other high ranking officials who came to welcome him. [passage omitted]

Tunisian Official Brings Message for Taya

AB271736 Paris AFP in French 1727 GMT 27 Oct 87

[Text] Nouakchott, 27 Oct (AFP)—Taieb Sahbani, the Tunisian minister of state for foreign affairs, arrived in Nouakchott today for a 2-day working visit. The Tunisian minister said he is the bearer of a message from President Habib Bourguiba to the Mauritanian head of state, Colonel Maaouya Ould Sid' Ahmed Taya. He also stressed the "exemplary" relations between the two countries, saying Tunisia and Mauritania are bound, together with Algeria, by a "treaty of brotherliness and concord."

The Mauritanian head of state stated recently in an interview with AFP that he was not opposed to an eventual widening of this treaty to include Libya, "once that country normalizes its relations with Tunisia."

Morocco

PLO Official Arrives in Rabat 25 Oct

JN261752 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 26 Oct 87

[Text] PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, also known as Abu Mazin, arrived in Rabat yesterday evening with a letter from brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] to King Hassan II of Morocco.

Finnish Ambassador Drowns in River Flooding

LD271453 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 27 Oct 87

[Text] Yesterday, the Finnish ambassador to Morocco, Carolus Lassila, and his wife drowned in the floods caused by the rise, between Ouarzazate and Tazmakht, in the water level of the Tiliouane River.

Sudan

All Khartoum Schools Resume Classes 27 Oct

JN271517 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1430 GMT 27 Oct 87

[Text] Khartoum, 27 Oct 87 (SUNA)—Classes resumed this morning in all of the schools in the nation's capital, including the primary and final classes of the state, popular, and private academic and technical intermediate and secondary stages.

Some school administrations told SUNA that student attendance was regular. They also hoped that the remaining period of the academic year will be stable and that students will turn their attention to their academic studies.

In a related development, some students told SUNA that the problem of transportation from their homes to school and vice versa is still unresolved.

Schools were closed at the end of September following student demonstrations against the IMF agreement and increases in the price of petroleum, sugar, and transportation fares.

Student Dies in Al-Fashir Riots; Curfew Imposed

JN271727 Khartoum SUNA in English 1717 GMT 27 Oct 87

[Text] Al-Fashir, Oct. 27 (SUNA)—State of emergency and curfew were imposed here in this western town following student rioting in which a student was killed, local press news here today reported.

Following the killing of the student by the police, the leaders of the main opposition in the parliament, the National Islamic Front in the town were arrested and all schools in the town were closed down.

It is to be recalled that the national capital of Khartoum and many regional towns had witnessed similar antigovernment demonstrations as protest against the recent agreement reached between the government and the International Monetary Fund "IMF" and the stand of the government towards the application of the Shari'ah laws.

Ethiopian Official Arrives, Makes Statement

JN251823 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1530 GMT 25 Oct 87

[Text] Khartoum, 25 Oct (SUNA)—Amanuel Amde Michael, deputy senior minister in Ethiopia, arrived here today. He is leading a delegation on a 3-day visit to Sudan. He was welcomed at Khartoum Airport by 'Ali Hasan Taj al-Din, State Council member; Dr Ma'mun Sanadah, foreign minister; Karam Muhammad Karam, commissioner of the national capital; and senior Foreign Ministry officials.

Micheal said upon arrival that he is carrying a personal message from Ethiopian leader Mengistu Haile Mariam to Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi. The Ethiopian official added that the purpose of the visit is to explain to the Ethiopian community in Sudan the developments taking place following the endorsement of the constitution, the planned granting of autonomy to the country's provinces, and socioeconomic conditions in Ethiopia. He stated: We also seek to dispel any misunderstanding as to Ethiopia's relations with its neighbors. These relations, he declared, are built upon OAU and Nonaligned Movement principles.

The head of the Ethiopian delegation said that Sudanese-Ethiopian relations are improving and cannot be characterized as tense. This is especially true in the wake of bilateral exchange visits. He cited the Sudanese delegation sent to Addis Ababa last month to attend celebrations marking the proclamation of the republic. The Ethiopian official did not rule out the possibility of a meeting between Mengistu and Al-Mahdi.

Dr Taj al-Din welcomed the Ethiopian delegation's visit and wished them a happy stay in Sudan. He hoped the visit would usher in better relations between the countries, now that both have democratic regimes. The State Council member said that he was thankful for President Mubarak's efforts to improve Sudanese-Ethiopian ties. Sudan and Ethiopia have longstanding relations and they have the Nile in common, said Taj al-Din. They are capable of sorting out their differences without the mediation of others, he declared.

During their visit to Sudan, the Ethiopian delegation will confer with State Council members, government officials, and party leaders.

Minister Cited on Visit

JN271202 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1012 GMT 27 Oct 87

[Text] Khartoum, 27 Oct (SUNA)—Al-Tum Muhammad al-Tum, acting state minister for culture and information, has declared that Ethiopia will play a major role in achieving a cease-fire in southern Sudan in preparation for convening the constitutional national council to discuss the country's issues.

In a statement following his meeting with the visiting Ethiopian delegation, Al-Tum said that there is a new development and trend in relations between Sudan and Ethiopia, which will result in major benefits on the political, diplomatic, and security levels. He pointed to the changes that took place in Ethiopia and to the drafting of a new constitution.

The Ethiopian delegation headed by Amanuel Amde Michael, deputy senior minister, arrived in the country on a 3-day visit the day before yesterday.

Al-Mahdi Cited on Visit

JN271219 Khartoum SUNA IN Arabic 1050 GMT 27 Oct 87

[Text] Khartoum, 27 Oct (SUNA)—Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, prime minister and leader of the Al-Ummah Party, has denied that there are any differences between the two coalition parties, the Al-ummah Party and the Democratic Unionist Party, on any issue pertaining to governing in the coming stage. He said that all that has been published to this effect is baseless.

In today's issue of the newspaper *Al-Ummah*, mouthpiece of the Al-Ummah Party, Al-Mahdi asserted, in a press statement made yesterday, that the government will take decisive measures against banks that have exceeded their prescribed credit ceilings. He added that these measures will be based on recommendations to be sumitted by the competent investigative committees.

The prime minister said that the current visit of the Ethiopian delegation comes within the framework of bilateral cooperation. He added that the delegation will also meet with the Ethiopian community to explain to them some of the issues related to government affairs in Ethiopia. He went on to say that this visit is not connected with the southern Sudan issue.

In his statement, Al-Mahdi asserted that Sudan has prepared a working paper to be submitted at the upcoming Arab summit. He said that this paper contains Sudan's opinions on many issues. He added that 'Arafat's recent visit to Sudan was aimed at holding consultations with us on a number of Arab issues. He noted that it also tackled the important role that must be played by the Arab states to make the extraordinary Arab summit, to be held in Amman, a success.

Foreign Minister Leaves for Jamaica Meeting

JN271452 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1410 GMT 27 Oct 87

[Text] Khartoum, 27 Oct (SUNA)—Foreign Minister Dr Ma'mun Sanadah left for Jamaica at dawn today to participate in the foreign ministers conference of African, Pacific, and Caribbean countries to discuss the issue of boycotting South Africa.

The Sudanese Foreign Ministry under secretary said that the conference stems from the cooperation meetings of the African, Pacific, and Caribbean countries held to secure a unified position against Pretoria's racial segregation and to impose tough sanctions on South Africa. He added that Sudan's participation at this high level is aimed at highlighting its policy on South Africa.

Paper Cited on Visit by 'Arafat Opponents

JN271127 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1020 GMT 27 Oct 87

[Text] Khartoum, 27 Oct (SUNA)—Today's issue of the newspaper *Al-Anba'* said that on the evening of 23 October, after Yasir 'Arafat's arrival in Khartoum, Sudanese authorities were surprised by the appearance of a special plane whose pilot demanded permission to land at the airport. The pilot told the Sudanese authorities that he was carrying important Libyans. Permission was granted to the plane immediately after landing. The authorities discovered that the plane was carrying two Palestinians who belong to a group which opposes to 'Arafat.

The newspaper said the authorities detained the two Palestinians under stringent guard at a hotel. It added that the authorities released them after 'Arafat had left Khartoum airport. They were then returned to their plane, which took off for an undisclosed destination.

Sudanese political quarters have expressed resentment at this behavior because Sudan's position regarding Palestinian legitimacy and the Palestine question is clear to all factions of the Palestinian revolution. Sudan does not want this position to be used for any purpose other than achieving accord among these factions.

Trade Ministry Official Views USSR Protocol

JN271550 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1422 GMT 27 Oct 87

[Text] Khartoum, 27 Oct (SUNA)—Sudan and the Soviet Union have agreed on financial measures to implement the trade protocol recently signed by the two countries. Under the agreement there will be direct payments in transactions between them.

'Umar al-Mubarak, Sudanese Trade Ministry under secretary, said that an agreement was reached with the Soviet Trade Ministry on exporting sesame and peanuts. The quantities will be determined through contacts between the ministry and the Soviet trade attache in Khartoum within the framework of the protocol.

The Sudanese Trade Ministry official added that in the coming months most provisions of the protocol will be implemented after overcoming administrative and financial obstacles. He also denied that there is any plan in the Trade Ministry to freeze the trade protocols signed

between Sudan and the socialist countries, adding that the ministry will try to remove some obstacles preventing the implementation of some of those protocols.

Foreign Minister Receives New PRC Ambassador
JN241856 Khartoum SUNA in English 1715 GMT 24 Oct 87

[Text] Khartoum, Oct 24, (SUNA)—Foreign Minister Dr. Ma'mun Sanadah received here today Saturday the new Chinese ambassador to Sudan Mr. Hui Zhe [name as received] and discussed with him bilateral relations and means of promoting them further. It's recalled that the ambassador has submitted a copy of his credentials to the under secretary of the Foreign Ministry prior to be submitted to the chairman of the Council of State Ahmad Al-Mirghani next Tuesday.

Tunisia

Bourguiba Partially Reshuffles Government
LD271143 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 27 Oct 87

[Text] This morning at the presidential palace in Carthage, President Habib Bourguiba held a working session on the progress of government activities, with Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, prime minister and interior minister, and Amor Chedli, minister director of the presidential office. Following the session, Zine El Abidine Ben Ali made the following statement:

His Excellency President Habib Bourguiba, the supreme combatant, has decided to effect a partial and technical government reshuffle to facilitate the implementation, by government bodies, of important social, economic, and financial measures which he has recently approved and which require further dexterity and coordination. This is reflected by the following appointments:

Slaheddine Ben M'barek, minister of national economy;

Nouri Zorgati, minister of finance;

(Mohamed Ben Hassouna Ghannouchi), minister attached to the minister for planning;

Fouad Mebazaa, minister of youth and sports;

Ismail Khelil, governor of the Tunisian Central Bank with the rank of minister;

(Abdallah Kallal), secretary of state at the Interior Ministry;

(Mondher Zenaidi), secretary of state at the Ministry of National Economy for Trade and Industry;

(Saleh Jebali), secretary of state at the Ministry of National Economy for Energy and Mines.

Salah Ben Mbarka [former minister of energy and mines] and Mohamed Skhiri [former governor of the Central Bank] will be called upon to undertake other duties.

Mabrouk Leaves for Syria With Bourguiba Message
LD271444 Tunis TAP in Arabic 1100 GMT 27 Oct 87

[Text] Tunis, 27 Oct TAP—This morning Foreign Minister Hedi Mabrouk left Tunis International Airport, Carthage, for Damascus to undertake a mission delegated to him by President Habib Bourguiba to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

London Weekly Interviews Foreign Minister
PM281047 London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic 17-23 Oct 87 pp 9-11

[Interview with Foreign Minister Hedi Mabrouk by Khalil Matar in New York; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Matar] To what extent have you been influenced by the activities of Tunisian supporters of Iran?

[Mabrouk] There is one fundamental issue in our internal policy. Political opposition based on ideology and political responsibilities, whether expressed through philosophy, discussion, or contacts and dialogue, is acceptable. Everything which is not linked to political opposition, and by this I mean opposition based on calls for the destruction of the regime, or its harm through religion by taking advantage of Tunisia's commitment to religious matters, is unacceptable. We accept normal political opposition, but we reject anything apart from that.

As for the effect of Iranian activities on other Arab states, I would like to say that we have tried many times to reach a consensus, both through meetings between Arab foreign ministers and through other initiatives. We hoped that better results would be achieved. We ought to speak with one voice as much as possible and coordinate our efforts to a greater degree. If it is difficult for us to be more united and precise, then each of us should be allowed to air his views because whenever we have tried to reach a consensus we have not been able to do so.

[Matar] In other words, would you like all Arab relations with Iran to be severed, as you yourselves have severed relations?

[Mabrouk] Diplomatic relations between two countries enable them to consult and cooperate with one another and coordinate efforts for development. However, if these ties are based on other matters it is better to sever them.

[Matar] Some relations do exist between certain Arab countries and Iran on the basis of cooperation.

[Mabrouk] We are not blaming the Arab countries which have ties with Iran. Let these states continue to have their ties.

[Matar] What you are saying means that you are not urging Arab countries to sever their relations completely with Iran—as a punishment.

[Mabrouk] The punishment comes from countries which have been harmed by Iranian initiatives. Any country whose security, interests, and stability have been undermined has the right, even the duty, to sever ties. [passage omitted]

[Matar] What is the situation of the Greater Maghreb today?

[Mabrouk] It calls for some optimism because we see at the present time keen and successful efforts to normalize relations between Tunisia and Libya. There is also an initiative concerning the Saharan issue which we think is important. We have strong and solid relations with Algeria within the framework of a treaty between Algeria, Mauritania, and us. We also have very strong fraternal relations with the Moroccan Kingdom and at the present time our ties and relations with Libya are developing well—which is good news.

[Matar] Will there soon be a restoration of relations with Libya?

[Mabrouk] What is the benefit of relations? Relations of true friendship, honest cooperation, mutual trust, and confidence are better than traditional diplomatic and ceremonial relations. Therein lies the benefit, but as for relations, they are an artificial thing.

[Matar] Are you saying that most of the problems between Libya and Tunisia have been solved?

[Mabrouk] No, I did not say that. I said that some problems exist concerning the dispute over Tunisian workers who were expelled and over some businessmen with interests. We found a solution to this issue and signed an agreement in this regard.

[Matar] What is the solution?

[Mabrouk] The solution is that the Jamahiriyah committed itself to paying the compensation due Tunisian workers.

[Matar] A complete commitment?

[Mabrouk] An official commitment. [passage omitted]

[Matar] What is the position of the PLO now?

[Mabrouk] It still has a prominent position in Tunisia in light of the fact that we have organized our relationship with it at an appropriate level which conforms to what the PLO can embark on when it is in Tunisia. When the PLO embarks on political activities we will help it to succeed, as far as we are able, in media and political circles. This is the kind of activity which the PLO can embark on in Tunisia and is engaging in at the present time. What is not in accordance with Tunisia's geographical position, options, and methods is military and warlike activities. Tunisia wants nothing to do with that. [passage omitted]

[Matar] Are there signs of any improvement in Soviet-Tunisian relations?

[Mabrouk] Perhaps you have noticed that I had a meeting with the Soviet minister at his request, though it certainly was our wish also. We do not reject, given the options we have for organizing our life, structures, and government, cooperation with countries which have different systems, traditions, environment, and conditions which necessitate a political system different from our own. We are open to cooperation with all countries and one of the fundamentals of Tunisian diplomacy is that we try to be friends with everyone.

[Matar] Does Tunisia have any enemies at the present time?

[Mabrouk] I do not believe that we have any enemies unless there is someone who has evil intentions towards us. We do not have any evil intentions towards anyone. Instead, we seek to build relations on brotherhood, mutual understanding, and the mutual exchange of views and means for advancement. That is our policy.

[Matar] Will you be visiting Moscow soon?

[Mabrouk] There is a gracious invitation from my colleague, the Soviet minister, and we will certainly accept it.

Economic Delegation Visits Bucharest 21-25 Oct

LD272216 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 27 Oct 87

[Text] A Tunisian economic delegation paid an official visit to the Romanian capital, Bucharest, 21-25 Oct. The Tunisian delegation visited the Bucharest International Fair and held talks with Romanian economic officials. These talks dealt with the reinforcement of economic and commercial cooperation between the two countries, notably an increase in the volume of exchanges and their diversification.

Kuwait

Egypt Reaffirms Support Against 'Aggression'

NC271543 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1430 GMT 27 Oct 87

[Text] Kuwait, 27 Oct (MENA)—The Egyptian Government and people have reiterated their support for fraternal Kuwait in the face of acts of aggression against its territory and oil installations.

Shaykh Salim al-Sabah, Kuwaiti minister of defense, received a verbal message to this effect during his meeting today with Dr Muhammad 'Abdallah, chairman of the People's Assembly Foreign Affairs Committee, and Ambassador 'Amr Musa, director of the Egyptian Foreign Ministry's International Organizations Department. The visitors arrived in Kuwait on Sunday at the head of an Egyptian delegation.

The two delegations discussed the current regional situation and bilateral relations, including ways of bolstering and strengthening them. The meeting was also attended by Dr Ahmad 'Atiyah al-Misri, head of the Egyptian Interests Section in Kuwait, and Shaykh Sabah Nasir al-Sabah, acting under secretary at the Kuwaiti Defense Ministry.

In addition, the Egyptian delegation met with Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and conveyed the Egyptian Government's support.

Paper Voices 'Shock' at Arab Backing of Iran

LD271310 Kuwait KUNA in English 1148 GMT 27 Oct 87

[Text] Kuwait, Oct 27 (KUNA)—A Kuwaiti daily Tuesday expressed shock and dismay at stands of certain Arabs who constantly find justifications for Iranian aggressions on Arab waters and territories.

Al-Anba' was astonished at those Arabs who do not only side with enemies to the Arabs but also speak in their twisted logic.

They look as if they were "speaking in Persian rather than Arabic" while backing and hailing Iranian aggressions justifying them with incorrect reasoning that one never dreamt would one day emanate from an official Arab media channel but "regretfully we are living in the worst age of Arab tragedies."

The paper quoted excerpts of a commentary by an official Arab news agency on the Iranian missile attack on the Kuwaiti Sea Island off Al-Ahmadi last Thursday.

It quoted the agency as saying "we stand by the side that is fighting imperialism and since the Iranian revolution is now confronting imperialism, we are with it."

The paper asked are Iraq and Kuwait imperialist countries so that the Arab news agency would back Iran's attacks against them.

The paper quoted another statement which read "we do not believe that the Arab masses feel remorseful toward the burning of the Gulf and Arabian Peninsula oil since the oil revenues are invested in the West benefitting America and the Zionist entity where recreational projects are built for them while Arab citizens are living in a state of poverty."

"Is that a statement by a sane man or an official news agency that represents an Arab country, member of the Arab League and which is also an oil exporting country that sells its petroleum to the Western nations," it wondered.

The daily further quoted a commentary by an official radio station of another Arab state which it said was pursuing the same course.

The paper, in conclusion, expressed regret over the current state of Arabs, pointing out that they only deceive themselves unless Iranian bombs and missiles are tokens of friendship, that they claim the Iranians are offering to the Arabs.

Foreign Ministry Official Meets Libyan Envoy

LD272048 Tripoli JANA in English 1817 GMT 27 Oct 87

[Text] Kuwait, Al-Tumur [October] 27, *Jamahiriyah News Agency*—"Hassunah al-Shawsh" the secretary of Great Jamahiriyah's mission in Kuwait met "Sulayman Shahin" the Kuwaiti deputy foreign minister this morning.

During the meeting, they discussed the new developments in the region and matters of mutual interest.

PDRY

Defense Minister Returns From East Europe

LD271852 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 27 Oct 87

[Text] Brother Colonel Salih 'Ubayd Ahmad, candidate member of the Political Bureau and defense minister, returned to Aden this morning following his visit to a number of friendly socialist states.

In a statement to ANA, the brother defense minister expressed his profound satisfaction with the results of his tour. He stated that during his successful and fruitful visit to the Hungarian People's Republic, Czechoslovakia, and the GDR, he met with the defense ministers of these countries. He also discussed ways to strengthen and

develop the strong, militant relations between the PDRY Armed Forces and the armies of these states. In addition, a number of other issues of common interest were examined.

He was met at the airport by Brother Colonel Haytham Qasim Tahir, Central Committee member, first deputy defense minister, and chief of General Staff; Colonel Dr Husayn 'Ali Hasan, Central Committee member and head of the Armed Forces Political Department; a number of military commanders; and the Hungarian, Czechoslovak, and GDR ambassadors.

Party Figure Tours Soviet-Assisted Gold Project

EA272148 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
1630 GMT 27 Oct 87

[Excerpts] Brother Salim Salih Muhammad, assistant secretary general and secretary of the YSP Central Committee, this morning inspected the gold exploration project in Wadi Mudan, in the Al-Mukalla Province of Hadramawt Governorate. During his visit, the brother assistant secretary general toured the project and was given a detailed explanation of the survey and exploration work being done in the area.

In a speech to Soviet workers and experts, Brother Salim Salih Muhammad hailed the efforts of Yemeni workers and their Soviet comrades on this project. He noted that their great efforts reflect the strength of the solid relations binding the YSP and the CPSU and the friendly Yemeni and Soviet peoples. [passage omitted]

Work on the project began in February 1985, while actual mining and geological operations started in July of that year. Geological and mining activities are scheduled to conclude in March 1988.

Monthly production in 1986 was estimated at 150 meters and rose to 170 meters in 1987. [sentence as heard] Sixty-seven percent of planned excavations have been accomplished to date. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Foreign Minister Meets With Algerian Counterpart

LD271458 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic
1130 GMT 27 Oct 87

[Excerpt] His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, met in his office today with His Excellency Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, the Algerian foreign minister. During the meeting, the two sides discussed all levels of relations between the two sisterly countries, in addition to developments in the Iraq-Iran war and other issues of common interest. [passage omitted]

Comments on Talks

LD272318 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic
1800 GMT 27 Oct 87

[Text] His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, described his talks today with His Excellency Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, the Algerian foreign minister, as wide-ranging. He noted that they covered relations between the Kingdom and Algeria, as well as preparations for the emergency Arab summit scheduled to be held in Amman on 8 November. Arab and international issues were also discussed.

In an interview with the paper *Al-Sharq al-Awsat*, his highness voiced his satisfaction with the level of relations between the two countries. He added: His Excellency Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi expressed this satisfaction in terms of the eagerness of both states to consolidate and develop relations by promoting bilateral cooperation.

His highness the foreign minister noted the upcoming 2-week celebration of Algerian culture in the Kingdom. He cited this as proof of the growing cooperation between the Kingdom and Algeria. His highness also praised the recent Saudi cultural week in Algeria. The foreign minister indicated in the interview that his meetings with his excellency the Algerian foreign minister will have a positive effect on the development and expansion of bilateral political and economic relations. He said that all political issues were discussed, particularly the Iraq-Iran war, the Middle East situation, the Lebanese problem, and conditions in the Arab Maghreb.

His highness added: His excellency the Algerian foreign minister expressed Algeria's views on the role that King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, plays both internationally and in terms of relations in the Arab Maghreb. He also gave Algeria's views on this role, as well as its hopes for further successes in addition to those resulting from contacts with the custodian of the two holy mosques.

His Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal expressed his pleasure with the visit by His Excellency Dr Ibrahimi, who represents the Algerian Government and the fraternal Algerian people. He declared: Algeria occupies a special place in our hearts. We welcome all good and fraternal feelings linking the two countries, and hope his excellency the minister will perceive this sentiment in every Saudi.

His highness noted that the Arab League has referred discussion of the Iraq-Iran war and Iran's attacks on Arab states that are noncombatants in the conflict to the emergency Arab summit. He indicated that the Arab states are concerned with the general Arab interest and decisions that will achieve it. In addition, his highness explained that we look forward to discussing this situation at the emergency Arab summit and reaching a unified Arab stand.

United Arab Emirates

Oil Minister on OPEC Price Policy, Quota

JN270726 Manama WAKH in Arabic 2032 GMT 26 Oct 87

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 26 Oct (WAKH)—Dr Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah, UAE minister of petroleum and natural resources, has renewed his country's support for OPEC's efforts to maintain oil prices at the current average of $18 a barrel. He added: We have worked strenuously to help bring about stability in the oil market. This in turn would contribute to the stability of the international economy, which is staggering under the weight of many pressures on all international stock markets.

This came in a speech that Dr al-'Utaybah delivered this evening at a celebration organized by Abu Dhabi Marine Areas, which operates here. The festivities marked the 25th anniversary of the first shipment of oil exported from the Abu Dhabi Emirate's fields in the UAE. He asserted that OPEC has a growing, positive role in bringing about stability in the international economy. He also indicated that the UAE's support for OPEC has been represented by great sacrifices and by its acceptance of an oil quota that can never be considered fair.

Dr al-'Utaybah expressed the hope that OPEC will work to resolve this problem, which has existed since the London agreement on allocating oil production quotas was signed in 1983. He also expressed his desire to see the Gulf region enjoy the fruits of well-being and stability, and to rid itself of threats of war and factors of instability. Dr al-'Utaybah further hoped that the Gulf war will end and that a just and lasting Middle East solution based on UN resolutions will be reached. [passage omitted]

Paper Urges Protection of Gulf Assets in U.S.

JN271016 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0859 GMT 27 Oct 87

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 27 Oct (WAM)—*Al-Wahdah* has expressed anxiety at the deteriorating situation in world stock markets due to the continued sharp fall in share prices and the value of the U.S. dollar, and the effect of such a decline on Gulf and Arab deposits.

In an editorial published today, the newspaper asks whether the U.S. Administration is still determined to exhaust the deposits and assets held by other nations in the United States, or whether it is trying to solve its own thorny economic problems at the expense of the world economy in general and the economies of developing countries in particular.

Al-Wahdah says that this situation is cause for anxiety and fear for the fate of Arab and Gulf deposits in U.S. banks. The paper points out that the present U.S. policy seeks only to inflict further damage and hardship on the economies of developing nations, ignoring the slogans of friendship and cooperation it constantly proclaims.

Al-Wahdah asserts there is no sign of any serious U.S. move to halt the grave deterioration of international stock markets. This is despite the fact that the U.S. Administration has the responsibility to take action, since deposits from oil revenues are linked to the U.S. dollar.

In conclusion, the paper warns governments to act quickly to save oil revenues deposited in U.S. banks and institutions to preserve these assets and what remains of their value.

President, Others Briefed on Military Industry

JN271240 Baghdad INA in English 1210 GMT 27 Oct 87

[Text] Baghdad, Oct. 27 INA—President Saddam Husayn today presided over a meeting of the Revolution Command Council and the regional leadership of the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party during which they were acquainted with tasks of the military industrialization body. During the meeting, President Husayn and RCC members extolled the big and distinguished activity of the military industrialization body which is part of Iraq's potentials in defending great Iraq and values of the glorious Arab nation.

Polish Parliamentary Delegation Leaves 27 Oct

JN271242 Baghdad INA in English 1220 GMT 27 Oct 87

[Text] Baghdad, Oct 27, INA—Polish Parliamentry Delegation led by Deputy Speaker Marek Wieczorek left here today concluding a five-day visit to Iraq. In a statement before departure, the Polish official told INA that his talks with the Iraqi National Assembly officials were successful. He added that members of delegation held talks with a number of officials concerning enhancing and developing relations between Iraq and Poland. Mr Wieczorek praised the comprehensive development witnessed by Iraq.

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Operations

Communique No 2,888

JN271721 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 27 Oct 87

[Communique No 2,888 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 27 October]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our brave Armed Forces, which defend our rights, honor, and dignity, continued their combat activities last night and today. They inflicted on the Zionist Khomeyniites new losses as follows:

1. To prevent the criminal Iranian regime from using its oil resources in aggression against our country, at 1245 [0945 GMT] today, our heroic Air Force launched a successful raid on selected targets in the Agha Jari oil field, scoring devastating blows to its targets. Our aircraft then returned safely to base in God's care and protection.

2. Our forces in the I Army Corps northern sector inflicted the following losses on the aggressors: six personnel killed; five infantry positions and one machinegun emplacement destroyed and their personnel killed; six different vehicles destroyed; one tank damaged; and a shovel and bulldozer destroyed.

3. In the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah, one 106-mm gun mounted on a vehicle and one infantry position were destroyed, two vehicles were destroyed, and one ammunition dump was blown up.

4. In the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan, four enemy personnel were killed and others were wounded.

5. In the VII Army Corps sector, three heavy machineguns, one infantry position, and one grader were destroyed, another grader was damaged, and three scoundrels were killed.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 27 October 1987

Spokesman Denies Plane Downed

JN271750 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1749 GMT 27 Oct 87

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Oct (INA)—An Iraqi military spokesman has denied Iranian claims to have downed an Iraqi plane today. In a statement to INA tonight, the spokesman said that the Iraqi planes, which attacked oil targets related to the war effort in the Agha Jari oil field, returned safely to base.

Defense Minister Visits Front

JN271855 Baghdad INA in English 1830 GMT 27 Oct 87

[Text] Baghdad, Oct 27, INA—Iraq's deputy commander-in-chief and minister of defence, General 'Adnan Khayrallah, inspected a number of war front sectors. During his inspection tour to the sectors of the Seventh Army Corps, east of Al-Basrah (3rd Army Corps) and east of Tigris (6th Army Corps) General Khayrallah conveyed President Saddam Husayn's greetings to the Iraqi combatants. During meetings with the said sectors' commanders, General Khayrallah aquainted himself with the invulnerable Iraqi fortifications and positions along with defensive arrangements taken in those sectors.

'Large Maritime Target' Hit

JN272006 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1957 GMT 27 Oct 87

[Statement by military spokesman on 27 October]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. To keep the criminal Iranian regime from exploiting its oil supplies to commit aggression against our country, our valiant Air Force raided a large maritime target off the Iranian coast at 1906 [1606 GMT] today, scoring an accurate and effective hit. After performing their duty, our aircraft returned safely to base, God be praised.

[Dated] 27 October 1987

Communique No 2,889

JN281221 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1149 GMT 28 Oct 87

[Communique No 2,889 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 28 October]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted denouncing Iranian regime's insistence on war] In expression of the Iraqis' invincible will, our heroic Air Force carried out the following heroic missions today:

1. At 1100 [0800 GMT], a series of destructive blows were dealt to selected targets in the very important oil refineries north of Shiraz. Our brave hawks left explosions, flames, and columns of smoke in the stricken area.

2. Simultaneously, scores of our aircraft pounded selected targets in a chemical factory in the area east of Shiraz.

3. At 1057, our planes raided selected oil targets in the so-called Bibi Hakimeh oil complex.

4. At 1906 last night, scores of our planes dealt an accurate and effective blow to a large maritime target near the Iranian coast.

5. At 0100 today [2200 GMT on 27 October], our planes scored an accurate and effective blow to a second large maritime target near the Iranian coast.

6. At 0510 today, scores of our planes dealt an accurate and effective blow to a third very large maritime target near the Iranian coast.

After carrying out all these missions, our brave, honest, and efficient hawks from Iraq and the Arab nation returned with their planes safely and victoriously to the homeland in God's care and protection. [passage omitted praising Iraqi Air Force]

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 28 October 1987

'Bloody Battles' Occurring in Baluchistan

JN261826 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1300 GMT 26 Oct 87

[Text] The Iranian region of Baluchistan is currently witnessing bloody battles between the fighters of the Iranian Baluchistan mojahedin opposition movement and the Iranian regime's forces.

A statement by the movement distributed in Paris today said the battles in the Baluchistan region are only an armed nationalist uprising initiated by the people of Baluchistan in Iran against Khomeyni's racist, Zionist regime. The statement said a group of revolutionaries ambushed a Khomeyni Guard patrol on the (Jikikor-Karanbet) road near (Kwadkesh) Mountain on 20 October, killing troops, destroying 2 vehicles, and seizing large quantities of weapons. The Baluchi revolutionaries also attacked a Khomeyni Guard position on the (Khashzakhadan-Tahlab) road, killing 27 regime elements and wounding 16 others. One mortar was destroyed and the position sustained heavy damage.

The statement said another group of revolutionaries attacked a Khomeyni Guard position in the town of Askan on 6 October. The attack, in which RPG-7 rockets, machineguns, and mortars were used, destroyed the entire position and killed more than 50 personnel.

In conclusion, the movement's statement affirmed that armed resistance operations will continue until the Khomeyni regime is toppled.

Officials Remark on Possible U.S. Cuts in Aid

Arad on Forgoing Defense Aid

TA271206 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV inHebrew27 Oct 87 pp A1, 2

[Excerpt] Israel's Ambassador to Washington Moshe Arad has proposed to the government that it notify the U.S. Administration that if a cut in aid to Israel is decided upon, then the amount should be deducted from the economic aid Israel is to receive at the beginning of next year. His proposal has not yet been accepted, and senior officials in Jerusalem say it would be a mistake to discuss Israel's willingness to accept the cuts at so early a stage. Officials in Jerusalem say that it is too soon to speculate on the extent of a possible cut in U.S. aid to Israel, but that it may be as high as $100 million.

In spite of denials by the Defense and Finance Ministries, it has been learned that Ambassador Arad sent messages to the Prime Minister's Office and to the Foreign Ministry counseling that Israel forgo part of the defense aid, referring to the amount of $80 million which constitutes 4.5 percent of the total defense aid of $1.8 billion. Such a cut would be in line with the Gramm-Rudman Amendment. [passage omitted]

Nisim Says No Decision Made

TA271820 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1330 GMT 27 Oct 87

[Text] Finance Minister Moshe Nisim has said that Israel will insist that the U.S. Administration fulfill its commitment not to decrease defense aid in the coming year. Nisim stated that so far Israel has not received any hint from the United States of an intention to cut aid, and he believes this will not happen in the near future.

In a conversation with our economic affairs correspondent Yaron Kulas, the finance minister said Israel had not made any decision to give up any part of the aid and that there is no need for this. The finance minister believes it is still too early to estimate the repercussions that the Wall Street crash will have on the Israeli economy.

Our correspondent 'Oz Frankel reports that Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' office ordered the Israeli Embassy in Washington not to create the impression that Israel is prepared for a cut in defense or economic aid. Jerusalem does not yet know of any initiative to cut aid following the Wall Street crash.

Rabin: Egypt Not Ready For Gaza First Solution

TA280757 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 28 Oct 87

[Excerpts] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said in the Knesset yesterday that the Egyptians want to shirk all responsibility for what is taking place in Gaza. Rabin replied to a motion to the agenda submitted by Knesset Member [MK] Hayim Ramon. Our Knesset correspondent Yinon Shenkar reports:

[Begin recording] [Shenkar] Alignment MK Ramon's motion surprised his colleagues, mainly because of its timing. Ramon wanted the Knesset to discuss the issue of unilateral autonomy in the Gaza Strip. In reaction, the Likud assembled its Knesset members in the plenary hall, fearing a devious Alignment trick. Ramon claimed that Israel should turn to the United Nations and demand that this organization undertake responsiblilty for and control over the Gaza Strip in coordination with the local residents. Israel, Ramon said, should adopt unilateral steps to solve the Gaza Strip problem, because Israel cannot shoulder the expenses involved in maintaining it. [passage omitted]

Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin replied to the motion, emphasizing that the Egyptians are not prepared to accept a Gaza first solution.

[Rabin, picked up in progress] ...for 3 years now. I see this in everyday life: a desire in Egypt—and this holds true for the entire Arab world—to shirk all responsibility for the Gaza. Let me cite 2 examples, although I could cite at least 20. Egypt wants to dissociate itself from the Gaza. It sees the Gaza issue as part of the overall Middle East problem. It does not want a Gaza first solution, nor small practical solutions for improving the Palestinian economy via Gaza.

[Shenkar] Yitzhaq Rabin disclosed that he had appealed to the British and West German prime ministers for aid to Gaza, but was turned down. The Knesset settled for the defense minister's reply. [end recording]

Egypt Rebuffs Ra's al-Burqa' Compensation Appeal

TA261128 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 26 Oct 87 p 2

[Report by diplomatic correspondent Benny Morris]

[Text] The U.S. last week failed to persuade Egypt to change its position on the payment of compensation to the families of the victims of the 1985 Ra's al-Burqa' massacre.

At Israel's request, Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy broached the subject with senior Egyptian officials, including Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, 10 days ago during Secretary of State George Shultz's weekend stopover in Cairo.

But it has been learnt here that Egypt refused to budge from its traditional position of accepting responsibility for the massacre and acknowledging the principle of

compensation, but insisting that the amount of compensation be determined by an Egyptian judicial tribunal. Egypt set up such a tribunal for the Ra's al-Burqa' compensation suit last month.

The Israeli families involved have so far refused to submit a claim and have in principle rejected the tribunal formula, demanding that the compensation be agreed upon in government-to-government Israeli-Egyptian negotiations. The families fear that the tribunal—the normal mode of determining compensation in Egypt—will rule on a low sum of payment, in line with accepted Egyptian practice, and that this would be an insult to the memory of the victims.

Just before Murphy met the Egyptians, Foreign Ministry legal adviser Robbi Sabel met in Geneva with his [Egyptian] counterpart, Ahmad Mahir, and also failed to elicit any change in the Egyptian position. Israeli-Egyptian contacts in the matter are continuing.

Hungarian Technical Delegation Seeks Premises

TA270817 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 27 Oct 87 p 1

[Report by *Post* diplomatic correspondent]

[Text] A team of Hungarian diplomats arrived in Israel Sunday night in order to buy or rent premises for their interest section, which is due to open in Tel Aviv in about two months' time.

The team, which Israeli sources say is "technical" in nature, is also expected to seek housing for the diplomats who will staff the low-level mission.

The team members are expected to meet low-level, technical Foreign Ministry officials in Jerusalem today or tomorrow.

Israel and Hungary last month signed an agreement reestablishing diplomatic relations and providing for the setting up of interest sections in Tel Aviv and Budapest. Hungary severed relations with Israel, following the Soviet lead, in 1967.

An Israeli team of "technical" experts is due to fly to Budapest in about 10 days' time to prepare premises and accommodations for the Israeli interest section and its staff.

PLP No-Confidence Vote on Gilbo'a Plan

TA271653 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1430 GMT 27 Oct 87

[Text] The Progressive List for Peace [PLP] today submitted a no-confidence motion in the government over the plan by 'Amos Gilbo'a and former Minister Moshe Arens on the issue of Israeli Arabs. Knesset Member Muhammad Mi'ari said the meaning of the plan is government-sanctioned racism. According to Mi'ari, it is in line with the transfer plans of Deputy Defense Minister Mikha'el Deqel and Rehav'am Ze'evi.

Peres Admits No Breakthrough in Peace Process

TA271828 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 27 Oct 87 p 3

[Report by Alan Kfir]

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres admitted yesterday that the concept of direct Israeli-Jordanian negotiations under the auspices of the United States and the Soviet Union had fallen through. He confirmed that no breakthrough in the political process had been achieved. Peres said: "Jordan insists on an international conference for two reasons: It wants to keep the economic aid it receives from the Arab countries; and it fears that without an opening international conference, it will be faced with a united Syrian-Soviet-PLO front. The Jordanian stand could be ignored, but anyone who did so would be giving up on negotiations. There are some who say we should wait without taking any action. But the demographic situation in the territories does not allow this. The camp calling itself national is not national at all."

Peace Process 'Victim' of Stock Market Crisis

TA271604 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 27 Oct 87 pp 7, 8

[Commentary by Yosi Melman: "Peace Was Buried on Wall Street"]

[Text] One of the victims of the collapse of the New York Stock Exchange was the Middle East peace process. Perhaps we could have summed things up by saying that the chances for peace were buried on Wall Street last week, but this is not precise. The funeral cortege set out a long time before the shares slumped. In fact, it set out the moment President Ronald Reagan's administration started foundering.

In the history of relations between Israel and the United States there has never been an administration so sympathetic to Israel, or whose position was so identical to Israel's on most issues. Just for some pleasant reading: Over the past 7 years, Washington has allowed Israel to embark on its adventure in Lebanon, increased military and economic aid, provided a special sum of $1.5 billion as an economic "safety net" to stabilize the economic programs, enabled Israel to gain appreciable benefits within the framework of the "free trade zone" agreement, increased strategic-intelligence-military cooperation, and was prepared to forgive Israel for any insane act, such as stealing technological secrets or spying by Jonathan Pollard. All this because Washington regarded Israel as a security asset, an ally, and a frontline strategic stronghold in the Middle East. It is difficult to ignore the role played in this context by the ideological similarity

between Ronald Reagan's neoconservative [preceding word in English] administration and the rightist-nationalist administrations of Menahem Begin and Yitzhaq Shamir.

We can go further and say that the U.S. Administration prefers the continuation of the status quo, which at least guarantees certainty and stability, albeit temporary, to changes that entail uncertainty. It seems that Reagan and Shultz prefer a continuation of Israel's rule over the West Bank to attempts to find another arrangement. This is because no one can guarantee to them that violence in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip will not increase to the point of Lebanonization within a few years if the territories, all or some of them, are returned to Jordan or given over to an independent Palestinian administration. Nevertheless, here and there the U.S. Administration has paid lip service to ideas of promoting peace. The Reagan plan of September 1982, which grew out of U.S. complications and its loss of prestige in the Arab world against the background of the Lebanon war, was an example.

From this aspect Shim'on Peres' tireless efforts to promote the peace process were disturbing to the U.S. Administration. Perhaps they did not actually seem disturbing to senior State Department officials (Ambassador Thomas Pickering, Richard Murphy, and others) or to the CIA and the Pentagon. But Peres' sometimes pathetic efforts must have been agitating to Reagan and Shultz. What Reagan and Shultz particularly disliked were Shim'on Peres' contacts with various elements toward convening an international conference on peace in the Middle East. They preferred Yitzhaq Shamir's passiveness, which involved strategic hostility to the idea of the Soviet Union's incorporation in the Middle East peace process.

In fact, Shim'on Peres imposed the international conference idea on the U.S. Administration after having come to an agreement with King Husayn of Jordan on this during their three meetings in London in October 1985, in Aqaba in August 1986, and again in London in April 1987. The U.S. Administration did indeed act as though it had been pushed by Peres. George Shultz refused to accede to Shim'on Peres' pleading that he visit the area in May. The Israeli foreign minister wanted the United States to persuade Yitzhaq Shamir and the Likud to agree to an international conference, but the U.S. secretary of state paid no heed to the pleas and, instead, listened to the Likud's warnings and kept out of the area.

Even when Shultz came to the region for a lightning tour, after a delay of 5 months, the issue of promoting Israeli-Arab peace was only secondary on the agenda. First and foremost he wanted to demonstrate the U.S. presence in the area and signal to Moscow that Washington had no intention of abandoning its traditional strongholds in Israel, Jordan, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia, or of folding up before the great offensive being waged against it by Soviet diplomacy in this section of the world. George Shultz explained that he did not intend to intervene in Israel's domestic problems or to put pressure on Yitzhaq Shamir to change his position on the issue of the international conference.

Now, with the Wall Street collapse, the chances for a Soviet-U.S. summit, which could be the last chance for promoting political moves in the area, have been much reduced. In its absence we can expect the Middle East or, to be more precise, the western part of the Middle East, to enter a long period of dormancy. One way or another the Israeli-Arab dispute is secondary to the Gulf war in the circle of interests of the United States and the West.

Jordan will not make any move before the Arab summit is convened in another 2 weeks. Spokesmen have already hastened to reject Shamir's and Shultz' ideas to convert an international conference with the active participation of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council into one under the one-time "auspices" of the two superpowers. The Arab summit will restrict even further the limited freedom of action that King Husayn still has. It will obviously not permit him to begin separate negotiations with Israel. It will again declare that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian nation, and it will continue to adhere to the demand to convene an international conference.

After that Husayn will go to Moscow for talks on equipping his Army and Air Force with Soviet weapons. In return for this move he will, of course, be forced to pay by recognizing the Soviet Union's right to active involvement, equal to that of the United States, in the peace talks. By then we will be at the beginning of 1988, which will be a year of elections in Israel and the United States. In an election year everybody is busy with elections, not with international diplomatic moves. The elections will be held in November and after that the exhausting coalition negotiations will begin, as well as the grinding work of setting up governments in Jerusalem and Washington.

When the new governments are established they will begin formulating their policies and raising new ideas. This entire process will last many months. So we can draw the logical conclusion that no progress in the peace process can be expected until the middle of 1989. The Israeli-Arab dispute could sink into a protracted coma that can only be awakened by the sound of a sharp explosion.

Palestinians' Statement to Shultz Published

TA271936 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in English
25 Oct 87 p 6

[Statement prepared by Palestinian notables for presentation to Secretary of State George Shultz during his recent visit to Israel, dated 16 October]

[Text] Mr. Secretary:

Twenty hard years have passed since the occupation of our land by the Israelis. During this time, 1.5 million Palestinians lost their basic freedoms and became subject to Israel's plan to return us to the Middle Ages.

In trying to achieve such an unrealist objective, the Israeli authorities have subjected our people to various harsh practices, starting with the building of settlements, land expropriation, attempts to undermine and destroy the national spirit of our Palestinian people and violation of every aspect of the codes of human rights.

When you introduced the concept of improving our quality of life under occupation three years ago, our people were surprised, for how can the Secretary of State of the U.S. imagine the possibility of creating a liberal occupation, since occupation can only mean subjugation of one people by another using force. Thus occupation and improvement of the quality of life would always remain parallel to each other.

Moreover, ever since you talked about this concept, the Israeli authorities have increased their harsh measures and practices against our people, our institutions and our basic living standards and conditions. If you need to acquire specific details of the hardships we have suffered over the past three years, you could request it from the American Consulate in Jerusalem.

Mr. Secretary, with the continuation of the Israeli occupation, and the lack of interest demonstrated by the current U.S. Administration, we believe that the U.S. involvement in the Middle East peace efforts has lost its moral imperative and has become a matter of preference.

American policymakers still refuse to recognize the basic rights of our Palestinian people to self-determination and still refuse to accept the Palestine Liberation Organization as our sole legitimate representative, as repeatedly chosen by our people.

The continuation of this U.S. position will not serve for peace in the region, and it demonstrates the lack of desire to establish the true foundations for peace which will guarantee the rights and aspirations of all the people in the region and above all, the national rights of the Palestinian people.

The American Administration should start reappraising its present policy and commitments, especially the policy of ignoring the PLO and the national rights of the Palestinian people. It should be kept in mind that since 1948 there have been 75 initiatives that attempted to solve the Arab-Israeli conflict. They all failed because they neglected the true political and national dimensions of the Palestinian problem.

We have been paying with our lives for the continuation of the status quo and in the hope that a just solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict can be established. We would like to present to you the following facts which should be taken into consideration whenever and wherever the Arab-Israeli conflict is addressed or discussed:

1. The only way to start the peace process is through the convening of the international conference for peace under the supervision of the United Nations and with the participation of the five permanent members of the Security Council along with the direct participation of the parties in the conflict, including the PLO, which is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people under occupation and in the diaspora.

2. The Palestinian people reject Security Council Resolution 242 in its present form because of the national and political nature of their problem as expressed in their aspiration to practice their right to self-determination and to achieve their objective of establishing an independent Palestinian state on their national soil, as well as their right to choose their own representatives without Israeli or other pressure or custodianship.

3. Our Palestinian people have repeatedly declared their support for their sole and legitimate leadership, the PLO, and would like to confirm that this choice is an expression of our inalienable rights.

4. We demand that the U.S. Administration, which is a founding member of the United Nations, should adhere to the codes and ethics of the international organization by pressuring the Israeli Government to treat us in accordance with the laws and codes outlined by the UN in reference to people who find themselves under the occupation of foreign power due to wars.

5. We believe that occupation and improvement of the quality of life are two conflicting issues. In order for one to survive, the other has to vanish. Thus any attempt to continue such talk would be direct encouragement for the continuation of the occupation.

6. Our people would like to affirm their strong commitment to the cause of achieving a comprehensive, lasting and just peace, simply because they pay the real cost of the continuation of the status quo, and we hope that our point of view becomes known to the American people, who are kept in the dark because they only hear the Israeli point of view.

7. We hope that your meeting with the Soviet Foreign Minister will culminate in establishing the required foundations for a joint American-Soviet effort which will certainly pave the way for the forces of peace and diplomacy, instead of war and violence.

8. We condemn the closure of the Palestine Information Office in Washington. We view this decision as a result of pressures of the Zionist lobby in the U.S. We hope that this decision will be revoked in favor of maintaining our very limited lines of communication with the American people.

Commentary Analyzes Rabin Policy on Territories

TA231526 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew
23 Oct 87 p 14

[Commentary by Alex Fishman: "Beneath the Surface"]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has given a fascinating lesson on how to navigate through a bureaucratic maze in order to implement political beliefs. Rabin, whose head is usually somewhere in the clouds designing grandiose strategic schemes, was the man who took action that would have put a man with both feet not on the ground to shame. As far as settlement in the West Bank is concerned, Rabin has acquired a nice political dowry that in the long run will be more profitable than that of terminating the Lavi project. If the latter was a dramatic and prominent event in which Rabin had to seek the help of partners, when it came to the question of settlements in the West Bank, Rabin gave an understated solo performance.

Rabin is perceived as pursuing the policy of his predecessor, Moshe Arens, in everything pertaining to daily life in the West Bank. Under this guise he carried out an about-face on the subject of settlements. There are no longer any Defense Ministry dummy settlements in Judaea and Samaria, and the NAHAL has moved from Judaea and Samaria to the Jordan Rift Valley and the 'Arava. The investments in infrastructure have set back settlement plans 10 years, to the days of the Allon Plan. Also, nothing is being done under the table. Everything is in accordance with the national unity government's coalition agreement, under the attentive supervision of Deputy Defense Minister Mikha'el Deqel, the Likud's sentry in the Defense Ministry.

In an election year Likud ministers will have to show statistics, and when it comes to Jewish settlement in the territories they will have a problem. Although the number of settlers in the West Bank increased by 17,000 between 1984 and 1986, most of them are dispersed in the areas of consensus between the two parties: the Jerusalem District and Maale Adummim. The last Likud government approved the establishment of 35 new settlements in the territories. The national unity government's coalition agreement of 1984 includes an agreement on the establishment of only six settlements. Nobody cancelled the previous government decision and nobody insisted on implementing it either, except for Matityahu Drobles.

It is doubtful that even the six settlements agreed upon will be established by election day. 'Asa'el in the southern part of Mount Hebron will not become a civilian settlement because of land problems. Work on the area slated for Avne Hefez began only recently. The NAHAL outposts of Maskiyyot in the Jordan Rift Valley and Migdalim near Ma'ale Efrayim are in the process of becoming civilian settlements. Only two settlements have meanwhile been completed: Ne'ot Adummim in the Jerusalem District and Hadar Betar in Gush 'Ezyon. [passage omitted]

The Lebanese war and Arens' appointment as defense minister halted Sharon's settlement drive. When Rabin entered office in 1984, the plan petered out. Only 12 pre-settlements remained from it, 8 of them in Judaea and Samaria at present serve as military observation posts and bases. None of them have become settlements. Nevertheless, NAHAL has resumed its original mission in the last 3 years. Five pre-settlements have been established: Nehushtan in the western part of the 'Arava, Be'er Malka in the western Negev near Qadesh Barnea', Qidron in the northern part of the Dead Sea, Maskiyyot in the Jordan Rift Valley, Harish in Wadi 'Ara, and Tiv'on near the northern border. Migdalim in the Jordan Rift Valley is in the process of becoming a civilian settlement.

This would seem to be a haphazard collection of settlements. Their common denominator, however, is anything but haphazard. The emphases in the settlement drives are: the Jordan Rift Valley, the northern part of the Dead Sea, Gush 'Ezyon, the Jerusalem District, and the southern part of Mount Hebron. If we add four of the six settlements agreed upon in the coalition accord, we get the Alignment's settlement plan along with Rabin's slight variations.

Many government ministries are involved in settlements in the territories. The Defense Ministry was and remains the most dominant of them all. All the land and infrastructure affairs in the area under the Army's control directly or indirectly end up in the defense minister's office. The Civilian Administration, which is subordinate to the Defense Ministry, approves, manages, supervises, and reports. The Defense Ministry has a vast budget and administrative apparatus. NAHAL, the largest settlement force, is in the heart of the Defense Ministry. Ari'el Sharon realized the Defense Ministry's power during his tenure as defense minister. He ostentatiously exploited it and created bitterness. Rabin has been doing the same thing but without creating any antagonism. He has not deviated from the coalition agreement by even one iota. It is all a matter of interpretation.

Rabin's attitude stems first and foremost from the budget at his disposal. As of 1984, the Defense Ministry has been allocating no more than $5 million a year to settlements—only 25 percent of the settlement departments budget during Sharon's tenure. In Sharon's days, almost the entire settlement budget was funneled to the territories. In Rabin's days, many people are vying for even the tiniest scrap of money. The settlements along the confrontation line on the northern border top the list of priorities. What used to be known in the Defense

Ministry as "political priorities" is now in fourth place. An intentionally small budget precludes any possibility of exerting pressure on the coffers. There just is not any money. [passage omitted]

Existing settlements in the West Bank receive aid according to the coalition agreement. After all, a settlement that accepts new families must grow. There is no saving when it comes to security matters, but contrary to the past, state-owned lands are assigned to public and private firms only if this is compatible with the coalition agreement. The wheelings and dealings of the early 1980's are over. [passage omitted]

The Defense Ministry has a fundamental influence on the question of employment in weak settlements. In a series of guidelines which he issued, Rabin gave priority to the settlements along the confrontation line and the development towns. Sharon decided to transfer military industry plants to Ari'el. The plants stand empty to this day, while in tenders issued by the Defense Ministry, Rabin gives priority to industries in Kefar Gil'adi, Shetula, and Qiryat Shemona. The latter can submit price estimates that are 15 percent higher and still win the orders. Plants in development areas almost exclusively win Defense Ministry orders of up to 100,000 shekels. The Defense Ministry helps industrial plants that want to move from central Israel to development and border areas to the point of undertaking to buy their output for years. Six or seven small plants have already moved or are looking into the possibility of moving to the north or to development towns, not necessarily to the territories. Motorola has started a production line in Qiryat Shemona, and El-Op has established a subsidiary in Sederot, not in Ari'el.

A fine-tuned orchestration of all the elements involved was necesssary in order to perpetuate the revolution peacefully without any political pitfalls: the leaders of the settlements, the commander of the IDF regional commands, the coordinator of activities in the territories, the Defense Ministry's Youth and NAHAL Department, the head of the Civilian Administration, and the ministry's officialdom. Each one of them could have torn the puzzle apart, but for the time being it is still working since the right people are in the right jobs. The test of this enterprise will lie not only in whether it will help trick the Likud ministers, but in whether it will serve as a fertile ground for a dialogue between Jordan and the Palestinians.

IDF Carries Out Detentions in Al-Duhayshah

TA261119 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
0930 GMT 26 Oct 87

[Text] Last night the security forces conducted a large-scale search operation in the Al-Duhayshah refugee camp, which lasted throughout the night. Many detentions—including administrative detentions and others for interrogation purposes—were carried out. The names of the suspects were known beforehand. Judaea and Samaria Commander Colonel Ze'ev comments on the reasons for the operation:

[Begin Ze'ev recording] These detentions were carried out because the residents, following a rather long period of relative calm in the camp, have recently initiated major disturbances and riots, including stonethrowing along the Hebron-Jerusalem road, hitting cars and in several cases causing injuries to passengers. We therefore decided that the instigators and the perpetrators of the disturbances must be detained in order to reinstate calm and order inside the camp and along the adjacent highway. [end recording]

Our correspondent Zohar Melamed has brought us these remarks.

Minister on Labor Violations, Deportations
JN261230 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 26 Oct 87 p 3

[Text] Amman—Minister of Labour and Social Development Khalid al-Haj Hasan said Sunday that there are at least 80,000 Egyptian and Syrian nationals believed to be in violation of Jordanian foreign employment laws. He said the estimated 70,000 Egyptian and 10,000 Syrians may face deportation from the Kingdom. Speaking at a press conference, Mr. al-Haj Hasan said that 4,014 foreign workers had already been deported in the period between July 22 and Oct. 10 for violations of constitutional laws on foreign employment. He said most of the violators did not carry valid work permits.

The minister told reporters that there was an unspecified number of foreign workers who have been deported from Jordan for security reasons by the Public Security Department in cases that had nothing to do with labour laws. Reading from a prepared statement, Mr. al-Haj Hasan said his ministry's aim was to "locate job opportunities for Jordanian workers and to maintain their rights and acquired gains within a framework that balances production, productivity and work, and their rates, constantly."

Mr. al-Haj Hasan said the government was hoping to strike a balance between the interests of employees and their employers. He added that it was "a heavy responsibility on us that requires monitoring all the changes in the labour market, researching variables and analysing their effects to enable us to draw suitable policies and take necessary measures." The minister's statement came after a growing controversy over the ministry's decision to stop issuing any new work permits to foreign workers and the deportation of violators.

"At the directives of His Majesty King Husayn," Mr. al-Haj Hasan said, "the government appointed a ministerial committee representing concerned parties and sectors to study the unemployment problem and suggest suitable solutions, whose short and long-term recommendations were later approved by the Cabinet." The official figure on unemployment in Jordan is 8 percent, which accounts only for those registered as unemployed at the Civil Service Commission.

Mr. al-Haj Hasan said that Jordan was facing "structural unemployment"—a phenomenon characterised by an excess of supply in certain professions and university specialisations, such as social and management sciences, medicine and engineering, while at the same time, there is a deficiency in some para-professions, especially in the fields of agriculture, construction, industry and services.

According to the minister, statistics available on the labour market show that there are currently about 40,000 jobseekers, no less than 75 per cent of them graduates of secondary schools, community colleges and universities. As the data from the Civil Service commission shows, the statistics say nearly 16,000 of job applicants are females.

The ministry's decision to stop issuing new work permits has been implemented since Jan. 1, 1987, but does not cover workers in agricultrue and a few other fields in which foreign labour is still needed. The minister said permits for workers in those fields would continue to be issued only until the end of this year.

The measures so far adopted by the ministry to increase job opportunities for Jordanians includes a June 1986 labour law amendment in which foreign labour cannot be imported or employed until it is positive that no Jordanian worker is available to fill the same job. In case there is no Jordanian worker suitable for the job, priority would then be given to an Arab worker.

Penalties and fines are imposed on employers who hire immigrant labour without work permits from the ministry. In addition, foreign workers are repatriated at the employer's expense. The minister said that so far 3,906 employers have violated these laws by employing foreign workers without work permits. Those employers were fined a minimum of JD 50 and up to JD 75 for each month of employment, or part of the month, during which a worker was employed illegally.

Responding to reports of mistreating illegal workers, Mr. al-Haj Hasan said that such mistreatment incidents were "rare and far apart," and that "we are all responsible" for such incidents. He refused to say who was directly responsible but added that mistreatment of deported workers were "individual mistakes." There were reports in the local press that some workers being deported were mistreated and that some of them had no time to collect their wages and other rights, such as compensations from the Social Security Corporation. Mr al-Haj Hasan said his ministry did not receive any complaints on its deportation measures.

He pointed out that an agreement has been signed between the governments of Jordan and Egypt, stipulating that any Egyptian citizen who comes to Jordan for a visit, work, or business has to register at security offices in Jordan within two weeks, and that those who do not comply are considered in violation of the security law in Jordan. They would be given a limited period to put their papers in order; otherwise, the minister said, "the law would have to be implemented."

Foreign labourers were originally given work permits in Jordan at a time when unemployment was virtually nonexistent. They are considered favourably by employers for conceding to work long hours with low wages which are not accepted by Jordanians. Mr. al-Haj Hasan said the ministry was aware of the wages problem and was considering a plan for imposing minimum wages. "We hope to reach a decision and have it implemented by the end of this year," he said.

The ministry said it was coordinating with the Vocational Training Corporation, the General Federation of Labour Unions, the Chamber of Industry, the Federation of Chambers of Commerce and employer's unions to prepare and train Jordanians to fulfil "the urgent needs of the Jordanian market in some professions." The ministry said it has "computerised its work" to improve the service of matching the demands of jobseekers to available jobs and gather accurate data about the labour market.

The ministry has also opened a new employment office for unemployed Jordanians at the building of the General Federation of Labour Unions. The new office was contributed by the federation. There are 19 ministry employment offices in Amman, Irbid, Al-Balqa', Al-Karak, and Ma'an.

Denies BBC Report on Permits

JN271107 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 0910 GMT 27 Oct 87

[Text] Amman, 27 Oct (PETRA)—Eng Khalid al-Haj Hasan, minister of labor and social development, has denied a BBC report broadcast yesterday morning that his ministry has stopped issuing work permits to non-Jordanians. The minister affirmed that this report is groundless and that the Labor Ministry in Jordan has never stopped issuing work permits to non-Jordanians. The minister added: Jordan is using foreign labor and will continue to do so according to its needs and requirements and in accordance with existing laws. Moreover, foreign workers in Jordan are respected and treated on an equal footing with their brother Jordanian workers.

South Korean Hostage Released for Ransom 26 Oct

NC272059 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 2045 GMT 27 Oct 87

[Text] According to security reports received a short while ago, South Korean hostage To Chae-song was released last night in return for a $1 million ransom. He was kidnapped in West Beirut approximately 2 years ago.

News Agencies Cited

NC281017 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 28 Oct 87

[Text] Citing well-informed sources in Beirut, news agencies have reported that To Chae-song, the second secretary at the South Korean Embassy in Beirut, "as released Monday night. The South Korean hostage left Beirut airport for a Gulf state yesterday. He was accompanied by a South Korean envoy who arrived in Beirut last week. The news agencies quoted the sources as saying that a $1 million ransom was paid for his release. He was kidnapped in West Beirut on 31 January 1986.

Birri Confirms Release

NC281417 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 28 Oct 87

[Text] Nabih Birri, minister of state for the south and reconstruction, has confirmed the news that To Chae-song, the second secretary at the South Korean Embassy who was kidnapped on 31 January 1986, has been released. Birri told a news conference today that the kidnappers received a ransom of $1 million.

Birri expressed his regret that Beirut, the place in which the South Korean was freed, was also the venue for his abduction. Birri disclosed that the Amal Movement has given the ROK diplomat protection since he was released and will help to arrange his departure. He denied that the Amal Movement had played any role in freeing To Chae-song. Birri stressed that Amal strongly disapproves of abductions, as well as the payment of ransoms.

Release of Hostage Expected Within '48 Hours'

NC280815 Paris AFP in English 0806 GMT 28 Oct 87

[Text] Beirut, Oct 28 (AFP)—One of the 23 foreigners kidnapped in Lebanon is expected to be freed within the next 48 hours, *Al-Safir* newspaper reported here Wednesday, quoting Western diplomatic sources.

The hostage, whose nationality was not given, will be handed over to his country's representatives, the leftist newspaper said.

There was no immediate confirmation here Wednesday to reports in Seoul that a South Korean diplomat, held captive for almost two years, was released in Beirut on Monday and is being kept "under protection in a safe place."

The South Korean news agency YONHAP, citing informed sources in Paris, said To Chae-song had been handed over to Islamic moderates and that the Lebanese Justice Ministry was expected to announce his release later Wednesday.

Justice Minister Nabih Birri, who has been involved in earlier hostage releases, is also the leader of the Shi'ite Moslem militia Amal, a rival of the fundamentalist Shi'ite grouping Hizballah.

Mr To, a second secretary at the South Korean Embassy, was kidnapped on January 31, 1986.

Twenty-two other foreigners are still missing: 10 U.S. nationals or residence holders, six Frenchmen, three Britons, a West German, an Irishman and an Italian.

Liberation Battalion Claims Attacks on Syrians

NC280732 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 28 Oct 87

[Text] The Liberation Battalion has claimed responsibility for a series of new operations against the Syrian occupation forces in the north. Among these operations was a rocket attack against a Syrian intelligence post in (Kafr Salman) in Al-Dinniyah at dawn yesterday, and another rocket attack in the Tripoli citadel area 2 days ago.

The Liberation Battalion has issued an appeal to all citizens and Muslims to join its resistance ranks in order to step up operations against the Syrian occupation forces until they leave Lebanon.

The Liberation Battalion had earlier claimed responsibility for a series of similar operations on Sunday and Monday in Al-Haykaliyah, the 'Asun crossroads, (Al-Sufayrah), (Al-Mukhaddah), and Al-Minyah. Some of these operations left a number of Syrian soldiers dead or wounded, according to the Liberation Battalion statement. The statement warned the Syrian forces to release [the prisoners] they hold and threatened to continue operations against them.

The Syrians responded with raids in Tripoli, Al-Dinniyah, and Al-Minyah. Hundreds of people were affected by these raids.

Syrians Arrest 'Hundreds'

NC271328 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 27 Oct 87

[Text] According to security reports from Tripoli, Al-Dinniyah, and Al-Minyah today, units of the Syrian occupation army have been carrying out wide-scale raids and arrests since yesterday morning. Hundreds of people have been arrested so far on charges of carrying out operations against Syrian positions and checkpoints in the aforementioned areas on Sunday night.

The reports list the operations as follows: At 2300 on Sunday night, five armed groups simultaneously attacked positions belonging to the Syrian occupation army. Three rockets hit the Syrian command in Al-Haykaliyah. The Syrian checkpoint at the Al-Qattin Bridge in the (Al-Sfayri) area was the target of another attack in which rockets, hand grenades, and machineguns were used. Two soldiers were killed and four others were wounded. The Syrian checkpoint near the ('Asfun) crossroad came under a similar attack, and most of the soldiers manning the position were either killed or wounded. Another group fired rockets and machinegun bursts at the (Al-Sfayri-Baut al-Fa's) checkpoint. Several rockets also hit the Syrian Forces checkpoint in Al-Minya.

Amal Allegedly Arrests 'Dozens' of Palestinians

NC281253 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 28 Oct 87

[Text] The combat lines to the southeast of Sidon were the scene of an exchange of machinegun fire between Amal and Palestinian positions this morning.

Palestinian sources in the south have reported certain practices which the Amal Movement carried out in the Al-Ma'shuq camp near Tyre at the beginning of the week. The sources explained that these practices included raids on Palestinian homes and the arrest of dozens of people. Of these, 'Ali Muhammad Salim and Ahmad al-'Annan have been named.

Junblatt Discusses Amman Summit, New Government

NC272102 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 27 Oct 87

[Text] Acting Prime Minister Salim al-Huss met with Walid Junblatt this evening to discuss the latest developments in Lebanon. Following the meeting, Junblatt said: We discussed current issues, specifically the political ones, in view of the approaching Amman Arab summit. Naturally we, the nationalist team within the government, have our own position on the summit, Al-Jumayyil's attendance, and his shuttle trips to Camp David [reference to Egypt] and elsewhere. The [PSP] party will adopt a clear-cut position and issue a statement on this issue. Furthermore, I will hold a news conference on Thursday [29 October] to discuss current events.

Asked about his views on how to end the ongoing economic catastrophe, he said: Squandering must come to an end, particularly the enormous expenditures in the field of armaments, diplomatic missions abroad, and the billions of pounds spent at random. I also call for reviewing the structure of the Council for Development and Reconstruction. The economic crisis must be handled seriously, and all [unauthorized] ports must be shut down. I am ready for such a move, and I believe my colleague Nabih Birri is also.

Asked about his position with regard to the formation of a new government in light of Minister Birri's opposition to this idea, he said: My position is well-known. I support the total boycott [of the president], the resignation of the government, and the formation of a nationalist government instead of the present reactionary and isolationist one.

Asked what he meant by a nationalist government, he replied: One involving the nationalist areas from Tripoli to Sidon, Tyre, the Mountain, and Al-Biqa'. Let there be a nationalist Arab government—I will not use the word progressive—but an Arab government in the face of the current Israeli Government and regime led by Amin al-Jumayyil and [Lebanese Forces Commander] Samir Ja'ja'.

In response to a question on whether he would send an envoy to the Amman Arab summit, Junblatt said: I will prepare a memorandum to submit to their majesties the kings and their excellencies the presidents taking part in the meeting, as well as to the custodian of the two holy mosques.

Regarding reports on a document that he and Minister Birri reportedly received in the wake of Richard Murphy's visit to Lebanon and their objection to it, Junblatt said: Once again I remind everyone of my position in 1983, which regrettably no one heeded. At the time, I favored deposing Amin al-Jumayyil. Had this been achieved, we would have avoided a social, political, and military disaster. I wanted him unseated, but we were asked to go to Lausanne. We met there as ministers serving this criminal, and the government of national unity was subsequently formed. I still believe in the need to end the Phalangist regime.

In response to a question on the upcoming presidential elections and the new president, Junblatt said: There will be no change as long as Samir Ja'ja' and Amin al-Jumayyil are not placed on trial, and as long as the Lebanese Army is not held accountable. There will also be no change as long as the suspicious individuals who

are responsible for the massacres and assassinations—the latest of these being the assassination of the nationalist leader Rashid Karami—are not brought to justice.

When asked whether he supports a certain candidate in the presidential elections, Junblatt said: I have no candidate for this regime.

Industry Minister Receives No-Confidence Vote

JN271850 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 27 Oct 87

[Excerpt] The People's Assembly met under its speaker, Mahmud al-Zu'bi, this evening. At the outset of the session, a no-confidence motion was passed against Eng 'Ali al-Tarabulsi, minister of industry, according to Articles 157, 158, and 159 of the Assembly's internal rules. The vote was 177 in favor of the no-confidence motion and 1 against with 19 members absent. [passage omitted on other Assembly items]

Al-Asad Accepts Resignations

JN281202 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 28 Oct 87

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad has issued two decrees, Nos 233 and 234, accepting the resignation of Supply and Internal Trade Minister Muhammad Riyad al-Haj Khalil and of Industry Minister Eng 'Ali al-Tarabulsi.

Prime Minister al-Kasm Receives Soviet Minister

JN271417 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1215 GMT 27 Oct 87

[Text] Damascus, 27 Oct (SANA)—Prime Minister Dr 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm received here today Nikolay Vasilyev, Soviet minister of land reclamation and water resources, and his accompanying delegation, who are visiting Syria. They discussed Syria's strategic water-related projects. These include hydropower, land reclamation, increase of watered acreage, optimum usage of agricultural land, and increasing agricultural produce. The Soviet minister noted the importance of these projects for Syria's future economic development. He also stressed the need for further deepening cooperation between Syria and the USSR in all fields.

Tunisian Foreign Minister Arrives in Damascus

JN271524 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1430 GMT 27 Oct 87

[Text] Damascus, 27 Oct (SANA)—Tunisian Foreign Minister Hedi Mabrouk arrived here today. On hand to receive him at Damascus International Airport was Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. Mabrouk said upon arrival that Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba had asked him to visit Syria and communicate a verbal message to His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad on current Arab developments and the dangers threatening the Arab homeland. Syria and Tunisia, he added, are in constant touch over Arab issues.

Meets With Al-Shar'

JN272002 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 27 Oct 87

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Tunisian Foreign Minister Hedi Mabrouk met at the Foreign Ministry this evening. 'Isam al-Na'ib, minister of state for foreign affairs; Yusuf Shakkur, assistant foreign minister; Ahmad 'Isa, director of the Arab Homeland Department at the Foreign Ministry; and Mohamed Amamu, Tunisian ambassador in Damascus, attended the meeting. Talks dealt with the current Arab situation in light of the extraordinary Arab summit conference in Amman next month. The talks also touched on fraternal bilateral relations and ways to develop them in all spheres, in addition to some issues of common concern.

Upon his arrival in Damascus today, Mabrouk said that he is carrying a verbal message from President Habib Bourguiba to President Hafiz al-Asad on the current situation in the Arab region and the dangers surrounding it. He added that he is visiting Syria with instructions from President Bourguiba to convey this message.

Lebanon's Al-Huss Arrives in Damascus 28 Oct

NC280642 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 28 Oct 87

[Text] We have just been informed that acting Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss arrived in Damascus this morning in response to an official invitation. During his visit, Dr al-Huss will hold talks with ranking Syrian officials on the situation in Lebanon and ways to adequately resolve the economic deterioration there. The talks will also touch on current Arab issues in the wake of preparations for the Arab summit in Amman and in light of Richard Murphy's moves.

SANA Editor on Support for 'Fraternal Kuwait'

JN271844 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1736 GMT 27 Oct 87

[Text] The SANA political editor has stated the following: At the Arab foreign ministers conference in Tunis, Syria stood by the side of fraternal Kuwait. This Syrian stand is continuous and steady. Syria is always ready to consult and cooperate with the Arab brothers in whatever is useful to the Arab cause and conducive to true Arab solidarity against the enemies of the nation. Syria is not used to selling meaningless talk and has always been careful to give its talk meaning and substance [quwwat ibra']. It means what it says in all its dimensions and bears responsibility for it.

Syria wants responsible talk and action; it does not want words that aim only to implicate brothers in what benefits neither them nor the Arab nation's national cause. Despite the fact that the Arab-Israeli conflict is a fateful one, despite Israel's possession of advanced military and technological means and superiority supplied through U.S. aid and the open doors of U.S. arsenals, despite the numerous battles Syria has waged against the Israeli enemy, and despite the Israeli and non-Israeli aggressions it has confronted, Syria has never attempted even once to involve the sisterly Gulf states in the military aspect of the Arab-Israeli conflict, taking into

consideration these sisterly states' special and objective circumstances, although Israeli ambitions are aimed against all Arabs and all Arab territories—not a certain Arab country.

In its actions and stands, Syria proceeds from a position of responsibility toward the nation and not from a position of implicating the nation. Therefore, it takes into consideration the special, objective circumstances of the sisterly Gulf states, while others are trying to embroil the brothers in a military conflict whose fire was kindled by the Iraqi regime.

Syria stood in the past, stands today, and will stand tomorrow and always in the forefront of those defending Arab territory and pan-Arab issues. It has employed and is employing its energies in both regional and international relations in the service of Arab causes. It has been and is ready to materialize true Arab solidarity. However, Syria refuses to stand in the trench of the U.S. forces in their aggression against Iran and their attempt to spread their control and hegemony over the Gulf region, after which they will impose their hegemony on the entire Arab region in collaboration with the Israeli enemy.

Afghanistan

Najibullah To Dismiss 2,000 Karmal Supporters

BK271258 Hong Kong AFP in English 1241 GMT 27 Oct 87

[Text] Islamabad, Oct 27 (AFP)—Afghan leader Najibullah plans to dismiss some 2,000 supporters of former President Babrak Karmal as part of a drive to purge opponents from the ruling Communist Party, Western diplomats said Tuesday. The diplomats, citing East European colleagues who attended last week's congress of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) in Kabul, said that up to 2,000 backers of Mr. Karmal would be expelled soon. Others may be forced to resign if they fail to sign an oath pledging future loyalty and to abandon factional ties, they said.

Earlier this month, Mr. Najibullah sacked 15 close associates of Mr. Karmal, who is in Moscow undergoing medical treatment. Those stripped of membership in the party Politburo and Central Committee included Mr. Karmal's cousin Mahmud Barialay.

The Afghan leader has assigned the Central Audit Control Commission the task of eliminating factionalism in the party, the diplomats said. But they said Mr. Najibullah's purge of opponents could create a more splintered PDPA. It could also result in "armed resistance" from aggrieved elements who could go underground to begin plotting Mr. Najibullah's downfall, they said. Some Karmal supporters have been arrested while many others were withdrawing their savings in preparation for flight, the diplomats added.

Security was tight in Kabul during the congress, the diplomats said. Citing unconfirmed reports, they said Mr. Najibullah narrowly missed being caught in a bomb explosion at a post office he was passing by last week. Earlier, anti-party and anti-Najibullah slogans were chanted at a Kabul rally marking the end of the party congress, the diplomats said, adding that the rally had to be abandoned ahead of schedule.

The PDPA has been plagued with differences between its Khalq (mass) and Parcham (flag) factions, with Khalq leader Interior Minister Sayyed Muhammed Gulabzoy opposing the Najibullah regime's national reconciliation policy.

Meanwhile, fighting has intensified in southern Qandahar Province with Soviet Afghan forces launching major anti-guerrilla operations, diplomats said. They said 60 Afghan soldiers had died in fighting in Qandahar.

Fighting Noted in Lowgar; U.S. Newsmen Killed

BK280235 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 28 Oct 87

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say that fierce fighting has been raging between mujahidin and Kabul troops in Lowgar Province for the past 10 days. The mujahidin claim to have inflicted heavy casualties on the Soviet-Kabul forces. Bombings and shellings in the area have reportedly destroyed hundreds of houses and caused a heavy loss of lives.

Meanwhile, two U.S. journalists, who were preparing a documentary on the Afghanistan war, are also reported to have been killed in a surprise attack by Soviet-Kabul troops near Kabul.

Army Arrests French Journalist in Faryab

BK271556 Hong Kong AFP in English 1530 GMT 27 Oct 87

[Text] Islamabad, Oct 27 (AFP)—A French freelance journalist has been arrested in Afghanistan, French Embassy sources said here Tuesday. Alain Guillo, aged about 40, was caught by the Afghan Army in northern Faryab Province, the sources said.

Rebel sources said the journalist was caught along with Commander Muhammad Amin of the Harakat-e Enqelabi resistance group late last month. The Frenchman had been travelling with the group, they added.

The two men were taken after a tip-off from a resistance leader who defected to the Afghan Government side, the sources said. Mr. Guillo was taken to Shiberghan in the northeast, rebel sources said. The French Embassy said they did not know where he was.

Vienna Summit With Resistance Possible

AU221052 Vienna KURIER in German 22 Oct 87 p 5

[Excerpts] Behind the scenes, hectic negotiations are currently under way to carve out a peaceful solution to the Afghanistan conflict since Moscow started making it increasingly clear that it intends to withdraw its occupational forces from Afghanistan. The climax of the struggle for a peaceful solution could be an Afghanistan summit in Vienna. [passage omitted]

Kurier has been told by people close to former Afghan King Zahir Shah, who was overthrown in 1973 and who lives in exile in Italy, that circles around the former monarch of Kabul are increasingly in favor of an Afghanistan conference in Vienna. Here, on neutral Austrian territory, negotiations could be held and concluded between a common platform of the Afghan resistance on the the one hand, and the Soviet Union, together with representatives of the regime of state and party leader Najibullah, on the other, on the withdrawal of Soviet forces and a new structuring of governmental power in the central Asian country. The proposal of "neutrality according to the Austrian example" has not been discarded by the circles around the former Afghan king either. After the withdrawal of the Soviets, a political solution to the Afghan crisis could be concluded with Afghanistan's declaration of neutrality, following Austria's example.

These concepts of the Afghan royal house in Italian exile, which are reported exclusively by *Kurier*, have been indirectly confirmed by statements made by 89-year-old American industrialist Armand Hammer, who recently engaged in mediation efforts in Kabul. According to Hammer's reports, Najibullah assured him that Zahir Shah's son-in-law, Abdul Wali Khan, could become prime minister in a future coalition government in Kabul.

Leaders Attend Soviet Envoy's GOSR Address
LD272348 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 27 Oct 87

[Excerpts] A glorious meeting was held today in the Storey Palace of the Foreign Ministry to mark the 70th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution. It was attended by members of the PDPA Central Committee, the Revolutionary Council, the DRA Council of Ministers, the DRA National Front, and the Afghan-Soviet Friendship Society,

Bakhtar reports that this glorious meeting was attended by Comrade Najibullah, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council; Comrade Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers; members of the Politburo and Secretariat of the PDPA Central Committee; members of the party's Central Committee; heads and deputy heads of departments and apparatuses of the PDPA Central Committee; members of the Revolutionary Council and Council of Ministers; officials and personnel of party organizations; officials and representatives of social organizations; representatives and members of the Toilers Organization of Afghanistan; representatives of Kabul City's toilers, chiefs and elders of nationalities and tribes; Pavel Petrovich Mozhayev, Soviet ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the DRA; and ambassadors of friendly countries in Kabul.

Comrade Nur Ahamd Nur opened the session with a short talk about the victory of the Great October Revolution, which is regarded as the most formidable event in the evolutionary history of mankind.

The session began its official work after hearing the national anthems of the DRA and the USSR. Comrade Haydar Mas'ud, member of the Politburo, secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, and chairman of the Afghan-Soviet Friendship Society, then spoke in detail about the importance of the October victory and its effects on the destiny of the world's people, including the people of Afghanistan. [passage omitted]

Pavel Petrovich Mozhayev, Soviet ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the DRA, then spoke about the 70th anniversary of Great October and the friendship between the DRA and the USSR. He said that the Soviet Union is extending comprehensive assistance to Afghanistan's people for the realization of the policy of national reconciliation and the achievement of its objectives. Afghan-Soviet cooperation in various fields, based on the traditional principle of friendship and good-neighborliness, is directed toward the cause, which was headed by the great Lenin. This cooperation, from the view of method and subject, is increasingly being enriched. The latest example of this friendship is the establishment of direct relations between the Soviet republics and regions and the DRA provinces.

The Soviet people want this cooperation to assist the blossoming of Afghanistan and the restoration of peace in the world. As M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, said when meeting Comrade Najibullah, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council, in Moscow, our country wants Afghanistan's future to be independent, sovereign, and nonaligned. The road Afghanistan will follow, the type of government it will have, the development plan that will be followed, depend on the people of Afghanistan. This is their indisputable right. [passage omitted]

Mas'ud Attends Opening of USSR Photo Exhibit
LD261428 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0509 GMT 26 Oct 87

[Text] Kabul, October 26, *Bakhtar*—A photo exhibition of TASS agency, entitled *The Country of the Soviets* and the week of Soviet Union's film festival was opened in Kabul to welcome the 70th anniversary of the October Revolution.

The exhibition reflects all spheres of Soviet Union people's constructive activities after the revolution. Among the numerous pictures of the exhibition, a part has been specified to the friendship ties and cooperation between the peoples of Afghanistan and Soviet Union.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Habib Mangal, chairman of the Peace, Solidarity and Friendship Organization of Afghanistan said that the October Revolution, as a twenty century major event, is not of great significance in the fate of Soviet peoples alone, but plays a major role in the life of humanity, especially the people of Afghanistan and its people's liberation struggles as well.

Haydar Mas'ud, member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan and secretary of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, Farid Mazdak, alternate member of the PDPA CC Politburo and first secretary of the Central Committee of the Democratic Youth Organization of Afghanistan, some members of the PDPA CC, members of the Council of Ministers of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, deputies of the peace, solidarity, friendship organization of Afghanistan, Pavel Petrovich Mozhayev, Soviet ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary in the DRA, a number of Soviet Embassy officials, and a

number of diplomatic members of friendly countries in Kabul participated in the opening ceremony. The exhibition will be opened for two weeks.

Condolences Sent to Iran on Tudeh Member's Death
LD272049 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1530 GMT 27 Oct 87

[Message of condolence from the PDPA Central Committee to the Central Committee of the Tudeh Party of Iran on the death of Rahim Namwar, Tudeh Party Central Committee member; date and place of issuance not given—read by announcer]

[Text] Dear comrades, we received with great sorrow the news of the death of Rahim Namwar, Tudeh Party Central Committee member. Comrade Namwar was known to the PDPA as a strong, formidable personality, and an untiring campaigner for the cause of peace and progress, a historian, journalist, and translator.

The death of Comrade Rahim Namwar does irreparable damage to the Tudeh Party and the people of Iran. The shining memories of Comrade Rahim Namwar will always be valuable. The PDPA Central Committee equally shares the mourning of this sorrowful event and expresses its condolences to the Tudeh Party Central Committee, all Tudeh Party members, and Namwar's relatives. The memories of Comrade Namwar are to be respected. May his soul be happy.

With comradely praises.

[Signed] The Central Committee of the PDPA

Najibullah Discusses Relations With CSSR
LD262320 Prague CTK in English 1941 GMT 26 Oct 87

[By CTK correspondent]

[Text] Kabul, Oct 26 (CTK)—"During the past 50 years, friendly relations between our countries and their peoples have been noted for bilateral advantageousness and mutual understanding", General Secretary of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan and President of the Revolutionary Council Najibullah has told CTK.

Speaking on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the first treaty of friendship between the two countries, he said that Czechoslovakia has been helping to develop various spheres of Afghan social and economic life. For instance the "Karkar" and "Dudkash" coal mines and the "Ghori" cement works in Pol-e Khomri, a vegetable oil-producing enterprise in Mazar-e Sharif, a canning factory in Qandahar, a military repairs enterprise in Pol-e Charkhi near Kabul are examples of Czechoslovakia's assistance. Czechoslovakia also helps train Afghan specialists and cadres for work in the economy and social, political and state institutions, the Afghan leader stressed.

He voiced conviction that the fourth session of the Czechoslovak-Afghan Mixed Commission for Economic, Trade and Scientific-Technological Cooperation, which took place in Kabul last week, will help open new perspectives in mutual relations by year 2000, mainly in power engineering, transport and industry.

The Afghan leader also said that the national conference of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan a few days ago can be doubtlessly regarded as a decisive turning point in the life of the party and also in the social and economic life of the country, a point which can help speed up the process of national reconciliation, stop the fractricidal war and ensure security and peace in the country. The party's new program of actions and statute, which have been approved at the conference, and the new Afghan constitution also discussed there, will help speed up the policy of national reconciliation, Najibullah stated.

Keshtmand Speech on Economy to PDPA Congress
LD260130 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 19 Oct 87

[Speech by Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, DRA prime minister and member of the PDPA Politburo, to the 19 October session of the second nationwide PDPA conference in Kabul—recorded]

[Text] Dear comrades: A militant and principled spirit specifies the work of our conference. The convening of the conference is an important reason that the economy has stablized and is more unified.

Our party's creative policy is great, and its tasks are enormous. Comrade Najib clearly and convincingly talked about this yesterday. Five and a half years have passed in new Afghanistan since the party implemented the action program of the struggle for the political and moral resurrection of the people toward the socioeconomic renovation of the country. This was a time of great works, consistent searches, and hard tests. The party has tried to manifest the sincere wishes of the people for a just future by guiding them from economic and social backwardness to economic reconstruction and comprehensive development. The economy was transformed into a front for the revolutionary struggle.

The party strategy has been examined according to wartime needs. War, with enormous loss of life, descended on the people and caused vast material damage. However, the national economy has constantly developed, thanks to the heroic efforts of workers, farmers, artisans, and also thanks to businesssmen and enterpreneurs.

Certain successes have been achieved in the economy's development. In the middle of the last 5 years important indices have surpassed the levels of the pre-revolutionary era. The gross domestic product, according to 1357 [1986] prices, increased 18 percent in 1365 [1985-86] as

compared to 1361 [1982-83]. The gross national income increased 10 percent. Production and social investment during the same period increased from 12 billion afghanis to 22.7 billion afghanis.

The national reconciliation policy has had a favorable effect on economic activities. During the realization of this policy, the pace of the development of industrial production increased 150 percent as compared to the annual rate of the entire postrevolutionary period.

I will now discuss the important sectors of the economy.

Agriculture will remain the primary sector of the country's national economy. The main portion of the gross domestic product will be produced by this sector. Therefore, the pace of agricultural growth is the most important factor in the development of the country's economy. In 1365 [1986-87] grain products constituted 99.5 percent of the yield in 1361 [1982-83]. Wheat production decreased by 5 percent. During this time, the raw cotton harvest rose by 33 percent, reaching 60,000 tons.

However, real growth does not exist in the production of edible plants and cotton. In our view, the main reason for this is, first and foremost, the unskilled organization in the delivery and purchase of cotton and the lack of sufficient incentives. Moreover, in the state sector of agriculture, which has the task of being a model of productivity and the modern organization of production, indices still exist which are much lower than the sectoral average. The state farms of the Agriculture Ministry are not fulfilling the plan for raising cattle or for poultry and egg production.

The work concerning the growth of agricultural cooperatives, which number only 504, should not be regarded as satisfactory. In addition, the dynamism in the creation of these cooperatives is decreasing every year. I think that the Irrigation Ministry, Comrade Sorkhabi [irrigation minister], has forgotten the year when the plan for improvements of the newly irrigated land and its utilization should have been implemented.

As is known, the land issue has always and everywhere been the axis for national and democratic transformations. In our country it is also of primary importance. Therefore, the just solution of the issue of land and water, improved relations in (?every) village in Afghanistan, and enhancing the living standards of the toiling peasants on that basis are the main factors for the success of the national reconciliation policy, the continous development of the revolution, broadening the social pillars of the PDPA, and the people's sovereignty.

Unfortunately, this basic issue has largely not been realized. As a result, the processes of revolutionary transformation have slowed. The former and present leadership of the Agriculture Ministry, Comrades Lakanwal and Kobakiwal; the Ministry of Irrigation and Water Resources, Comrade Sorkhabi; and the Peasant Cooperatives Union, Comrades (Nurzay) and (Bawar), should answer before the party and the people for deficiencies and failures in the agriculture sector.

This conclusion can be strengthened with specific examples. For several years special organs have existed in the Agriculture Ministry, comprising around 2,600 officials, for carrying out land reform. I stress that they exist. They are receiving salaries from the state but are not working in practice. In 5 years, they have only assessed 1,100 villages. Due to these people's faults, the just distribution of water among 340,000 landless and small landholder peasants, who have had received land as a result of the victory of the Sowr revolution, has not taken place.

Large-scale agricultural technology has been given to us. But in what condition are the machineries and tractors? How has this technology been utilized? No one in the Agriculture Ministry knows, and no one wants to know. The offices of the Agriculture Ministry are crowded. Agricultural experts are sitting opposite each other; but in the provinces, agricultural technology and machinery stand idle for years due to the nonexistance of mechanics. The Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reform and the Ministry of Irrigation and Water Resources, which have been given the most responsible job of carrying out the just distribution of water among the peasants, not only could not manage it but have always been seeking heroic excuses for their negligence.

Moreover, the Agriculture Ministry, which annually receives more than 140,000 tons of chemical fertilizer, for the last 9 years has not managed to create a system of transportation and sales directly to the peasants at state prices in exchange for purchasing agricultural produce from them. Another example: In accordance with a plan prepared by the Peasant Cooperative Union in conjunction with the State Planning Committee, envisaging the formation of 50 cooperatives per year, it would take 160 years to establish cooperatives in all villages. Who will be satisifed by this? Why are these paces necessary?

I recall that another task—the organization of trade in villages—has also been allocated to the Peasant Cooperative Union. I stress—in the villages. However, the market for the sale of industrial goods by the cooperatives is sharp in the cities. All of us see this and know it, but we neither can nor want to uproot this practice.

Today more than ever before, the energy of the party and all organs of the state power and administration should be directed toward the agricultural sector. The acceleration of national reconciliation largely depends on this fact. The assessment of peasantry issues in a section of the state conference manifested this fact. Therefore, Comrade Najib's proposal on the convocation of a regular Central Committee plenum devoted to land and agricultural issues has been profoundly calculated and is reasonable.

Comrades, the private sector has a fundamental position in the national economy. In this sector, 81 percent of the gross national product is being produced. Of this, 99.9 percent is in agriculture and 87 percent in commerce. Life has clearly shown that the joint and reciprocally useful work by state organs with the private sector constitutes the bases for the growth of the national economy.

The national party conference had included the following paragraph in the PDPA action program: Revolutionary power will create economic and legal bases for long-term effective and mutually beneficial cooperation between the state and private sector and national investors both in the framework of a mixed sector and individual cooperation. One can satisfactorily report to the participants of the present conference that this is the most important topic in the party program which is being implemented.

The idea of joint efforts by state organs with the private sector and national investors has acquired legal status. The Economic Consultative Council is functioning on the basis of serious principles in the framework of the DRA Council of Ministers to state and represent the interests of the private sector and national investors at the state level and also to ensure the possibilities of directing the private sector. Special departments will be created within ministries, departments, and the executive committees of the provincial and city councils of people's delegates for cooperation with the private sector and national investors. Mixed shareholding enterprises and companies are being created and developed. Most of these are effectively using the great credit from the Soviet Union.

The Central Department for the Promotion and Development of Private Investment has been established in the framework of the DRA Council of Ministers. The law on private, national, and foreign investment has been approved. All these specific measures were highly assessed at the national conference. Our ministers are duty-bound to consolidate the opportunities which have been created for useful mutual cooperation between state organs and the private sector.

A national union and a central council of tradesmen were created during the first congress of tradesmen. The organs have ministerial rank and authority.

Industry, which carries increasingly greater weight every year, plays an important role in the gross domestic product. In 1361 [1982-83] this field produced 21 percent and in 1365 [1986-87] 24 percent of the gross domestic product.

The volume of industrial production has increased to 29 percent in the last 5 years, including an increase of 50 percent in the basic spheres of heavy industry and infrastructure production of the state and mixed sector. Taking into account improvements in providing raw materials, power energy, and other resources, this made it possible for the volume of production to increase in the manifacturing industries.

The volume of production in the handicrafts sector has increased 9 percent. Economic and technical cooperation between the DRA and the USSR is a key factor in the country's industrial potential. Power plants, basic light industry, and foodstuff plants built throught Soviet assistance produce more than 60 percent of the total industrial-manufactured products and 75 percent of the production of the DRA state sector.

In the last 5 years, the following have been built and have become operational with the economic and technical assistance of the Soviet Union: departments for car repair and an iron foundry in Jangalak firms; KAMAS [expansion unknown] car repair and service plants; a radio transmission system in Kabul; the Kabul airport project; cable to transfer the 220-volt power from the Soviet border to Kholm-Mazar-e Sharif; a friendship bridge over the Amu river; a place to (?pick up goods) in Hayratan; the cable to transfer 110 kilowatts of power from the Soviet border to Konduz; a conserves factory in Jalalabad, a silo in Pol-e Khomri; the construction of the Social Sciences Institute, a polyclinic center, and a blood bank; and a number of systems for the gas industry.

The technical system of Salang tunnel has been restored. The construction of residential homes has increased in Kabul. The restoration of the Torghondi rail station will be finished soon.

The friendly countries of Czechoslovakia, the GDR, Bulgaria, Poland, and Hungary are also rendering specific assistance to our economy. The CSSR assists in developing the coal and cement industry. Television, communications, and medical establishments have been improved with GDR assistance. Bulgaria cooperates in developing construction materials enterprises and agricultural projects. Trade is actively growing with all socialist countries.

Allow me on behalf of this conference and all of Afghanistan's people to express deep appreciation to our friends for their revolutionary solidarity and their fraternal assistance. [applause]

Comrades, one can understand at present that energy shortages prevent the growth of our national economy's sectors and bases. The implementation of plans to develop local power stations by the officials of the Electrical Energy Ministry is slow. Assistance has not been given to the private sector. The issue of economizing in energy has been ignored.

The Ministry of Mines and Industry, Comrade Masir, in 1365 [1986-87] and in current year, has reduced the level of gas production, thus producing a negative effect on our foreign trade and on the country's budget. This ministry has not provided for the restoration of oil

extraction or for an increase in coal extraction. Cement production has been reduced, and the reserves of the Jangalak plants have been used unsatisfactorily. Objective factors have also influenced this cause, but in resolving these tasks, most of the issues are related to the work of the ministry.

The Ministry of Light Industry and Foodstuffs, Comrade (Lamr) [not further identified], which has jurisdiction over all the production of the manufacturing industry in this sector, has not carried out its plan and duties completely in recent years. The ministry and minister have established weak mutual relations with the private sector.

As for criticism regarding transportation work: In the last 5 years, the circulation of goods in the private sector has improved by only 1.6 percent and in the state sector by 61 percent. A systematic reduction in the share of transportation by private transport, the unsatisfactory attraction of vehicle owners to the unions and cooperatives, the lack of interest in organizing repair services, and the lack of an increase in using vehicles, are the serious shortcomings in the work of the Transportation Ministry and its minister, Comrade Mazdurya. Air transport resources have been used weakly, Minister Comrade Negahban.

The state telephone, radio, and television network has developed considerably in line with modern technology. The radio telephone network of [word indistinct] has been established with 17 province and 5 district centers. The radio broadcasting network has been expanded through 27 radio transmission systems and 12 boosters. Radio Afghanistan disseminates its program to Iran, Pakistan, and India, as well as to European and Arab countries. Television is currently seen in 11 provinces. With the contribution of the Shamshad system, DRA television has entered the international arena via Intersputnik. Direct international telephone lines have been established with Moscow, London, and Paris. Postal relations have improved further. At present, 323 postal departments are active in the country. The dispatch of newspapers and magazines to the provinces has increased 200 percent. The capacity of the telephone channels has increased to 36,000 numbers. All this work has contributed to an 85-percent increase in the volume of communications services.

However, the Communications Ministry and State Committee for Radio and Television make weak use of their technical resources, and their work is insufficient concerning the transportation and dissemination of newspapers and other publications to the provinces, cities, districts, and subdistrict centers.

Comrades, reviving and developing the economy is directly related to the resources of the basic structure. In the last 5 years, 83 billion afghanis have been invested for the needs of the country's social and economic development. Total expenditures in 1365 [1986-87] increased almost 200 percent as compared to 1361 [1982-83]. But the Ministry of Construction Affairs, Comrade Nazar Muhammad, weakly attracts private firms to undertake construction, the volume of which increases daily.

Our investment policy needs to be fully implemented and examined. It should also give priority to economic development sectors. Serious attention should be given to seeking financial resources and particularly to the fruitful issues in capital investment. In other words, we should put the real policy of investment into practice purposefully and wittingly.

The DRA State Planning Committee, Comrade Muhammad 'Aziz; the Finance Ministry, Comrade Muhammad Kabir; the Construction Affairs Ministry, Comrade Nazar Muhammad; the Afghanistan Bank, Comrade Ranjba—with the active participation of all DRA ministries, state committees, and departments as well as the executive committees of the councils of the people's representatives—should concentrate their efforts to resolve this issue.

On the subject of foreign economic relations and foreign trade: The volume of foreign trade has reached $1.4 billion. In 1365 [1986-87] the socialist countries had the major share of 68 percent in the foreign trade of Afghanistan, out of which the Soviet Union occupied an outstanding position—60 percent of the total. Close contacts have been established with the developing countries. Their share reaches 16 percent of foreign trade. At the same time, the capitalist countries' share has fallen to 16 percent during the economic blockade imposed by imperialist circles.

The Commerce Ministry has weakly attracted private businessmen to import raw material and primary goods to the country. The ministry slowly increases the exports of traditional Afghan goods.

Despite the war, which demands huge costs, some successes have occurred in the social spheres during the last 5 years. There are 25,000 literacy courses active in the country, in which 516,000 persons are engaged in learning. The doors of 1,241 public schools have been opened for 703,000 students. Specialists with middle-school educations are training in 16 technical colleges, 15 pedagogical colleges, and 30 vocational technical colleges. There are 17,000 students studying in the 28 faculties and 5 higher-education establishments.

The possibility of providing medical services to the people has particularly increased. During the last years, 26 new medical centers and hospitals have been built. They total 109. The number of physicians has increased 2.1-fold, and the network of drugstores has been expanded.

Cultural services for the people have been developed. Public libraries and new museums have been opened, and the number of mobile cinemas has increased.

The salary of workers and employees of the state, mixed, and cooperative sectors has increased 19 percent during the last years. The salary of low-income workers has increased 30 percent. During 1365 [1986-87], the average monthly salary of workers and employees of these sectors reached 3,650 afghanis. In addition, some additional concessions for free coupon goods, which on the average constitute 20,000 afghanis per person annually, have been provided. But price increases in private trade and unsatisfactory work by the Commerce Ministry in this field have foiled all these efforts and endeavors by the party and state. Nevertheless, price increases have not escalated to the point where they jeopardize our constant social and economic development.

At the same time, we should not forget that most state workers and employees, despite measures taken and increases in salaries, and the general betterment in their living conditions, seriously feel the hand of inflation in their family budgets. Therefore, in order to organize and stablize prices in the state and private sectors, we should take effective measures and intensify state control over prices. To resolve this task, the State Planning Committee, the Commerce Ministry, the Finance Ministry, and the executive committees of the Council of People's representatives, should take the initiative, and [passage indistinct].

The Agriculture Ministry has set a record in this sphere. There are some 4,000 officials for 11,200 workers and temporary employees. The central apparatus of this ministry has 1,900 persons and only rules over 30 agricultural departments in the provinces and 10 state [word indistinct] establishments. Therefore, Comrade Kobakiwal, the implementation of Comrade Najib's order on reducing the state apparatus should start in your ministry.

Comrades, during the years since the national party conference, [word indistinct] condition for a dynamic and purposful development of economy has been created. In the sphere of national economy, the foundation of a planned administration and statistics and new legislation has been laid. With the great assistance of the Soviet Union and other friendly countries, the foundation for the development of current industry and infrastructure production has been created.

The creation of the forms of state power and administration at all levels, which is among the tasks of this phase of national reconciliation, is continuing. The work relationship of all categories of workers and subjects has been arranged in accordance with the new DRA labor law. The lasting growth of private investment in the areas of national economy and social services is being stabilized. Mixed shareholding companies are being formed where the socioeconomic interests of the state and private investors have been arranged in mutually beneficial and modern forms. Afghanistan's links with Europe and the Far East, through the Soviet Union, are being improved. The growth of the state sector in fundamental areas of industry and production infrastructure is being strengthened with the help of the PDPA and the DRA. The structures of the private, state, and cooperative sectors of the economy have grown and expanded based on the utilization of new mechanisms and the mutual dynamic cooperation among them.

All these factors have made it possible for an exceptionally important document—the basic aspects of the political and social development of Afghanistan for 1365-1369 [1986-91]—to be approved by the 17th Plenum of the PDPA Central Committee. This document outlines the party's economic program and the program for future progressive changes in all economic and social spheres. The fundamental tasks of the current 5-year plan are to accelerate (?actions) for overcoming the country's economic and technical backwardness; to establish priorities related to the growth of the state and cooperative sectors; to accelerate socioeconomic changes in the industrial sector; to raise the people's living standards; to consolidate the country's defense capability; to comprehensively enhance the effectiveness of [word indistinct] and saving regime; and to concentrate material, financial, and production resources toward the solution of the number one tasks.

I would like to draw the delegates' attention to the fact that in portions of the fundamental indices, in comparison to the tasks which have been envisaged for social and economic growth for 1365-1369 [1986-91], backwardness has been seen. Backwardness in electrical energy production, gas and coal extraction, and in parts of the construction materials industry and light industries and foodstuffs has been seen. The responsible officials of the party organizations of the ministries and state departments are dutybound to take serious measures to eliminate this backwardness.

The strategic fundamental plan of the party concerning the broad attraction of social strata and classes to active economic life in the conditions of national reconciliation is attaining special importance. The final approach demands that the economic resources of none of the elements should be negated. In particular, such a policy could develop our multisystem economy. As was pointed out in Comrade Najib's statement, it could bring about a lasting economic condition under a coalition administration.

The peasant economy, which is one of the country's numerous economic traditions, needs considerable improvement to maintain it from the material, financial, and technical viewpoints. On this basis, the growth of the production process and the enhancement of its capability level could be maintained. This fact will finally cause an increase in the level of agricultural products in the country's home market and will help to increase Afghan traditional export items, for example, raisins and other dry fruits as well as fresh fruits, including grapes, karakul skin, and other agricultural products.

The small sector of goods in cities and villages needs to be provided with suitable production conditions and marketing, as well as the rapid provision of growth in self-sufficiency. In the private factory industrial sector, investment—the beneficial establishment of capital—is necessary.

It is necessary to expand the activity of cooperatives and private sectors. Under the present conditions, these are counted as the effective forms of cooperation between the state and private sector and are considered an active tool for the expansion of private investment. It is necessary to guide these sectors toward accelerated growth, active participation in organizational reconstruction, and the technical completion of production.

The preferential role of the state sector is being enhanced. As the possessor of the large production means and as a producer of goods, the state sector should, under the new economic conditions, digest all philosophy concerned with attaining profits. The state sector should also be gradually freed from the state assistance and become, as quickly as possible, self-sufficient.

It is necessary for our gains in the state sector to be simultaneous with the measures to develop agricultural production, to expand trade, and to increase the strength of infrastructural establishments. The key to accelerating the policy of national reconciliation is the enhancement of the pace of the growth of goods-production and the maintenance of a market with the necessary consumer and industrial goods.

If we provide suitable conditions for peasants to produce and sell surplus products, if we assest artisans in selling their goods for a just price, if we attract private capital to the production sector, and if we maintain consistent growth in work output in the state sector, we will create fundamental and reliable economic encouragement for the realization of the national reconciliation policy.

We have envisioned the realization of this strategic aim through specific economic measures. At present, the DRA State Planning Committee, along with other ministries and departments, and with the participation of Soviet experts, are working on the draft development programs for the most important socioeconomic areas for 1370-1374 [1991-96] and also the draft of the DRA socioeconomic development plan through 1379 [2000-01].

In considering the draft long-term plan for economic and social construction in Afghanistan, we will realize the transition to a coalition administration. At the present phase of the national-democratic revolution, the following strategic aspects are counted as the specific characteristics of our economic policy: The creation of a reliable mechanism for rapid and independent economic growth; the broadening of a social base of economic growth based on the active attraction of all sections and structures of the economy for the expansion of domestic production; the deepening of regional planning in consideration of the new forms of cooperation of the country's provinces with the republics and provinces of the Soviet Union; the strengthening of the fundamental [word indistinct] of socioeconomic growth; the maintenance of conditions for the undeviating enhancement of the average basic income of the inhabitants and the well-being of the people; and the intensification of state activity in the movement for the creation of a new economic system and a new international economic order.

The party believes that, by solving these tasks, Afghanistan will be transformed into a developed country whose people will have high standards of living. The main slogan of the economic policy in the conditions of national reconciliation is the rapid growth of the pace of work and production and initiatives in action. This is the slogan of the party, the state, and the government.

It is necessary to correctly understand the need to enhance the level of responsibility of ministries, state committees, and departments, as well local organs of state power and administration, in order to implement socioeconomic development plans, strengthen the control and implementation of the draft plans of every collective, without considering to which administration they belong, and improve their organizational work toward encouraging the private sector in the construction of new projects and the revitalization of inactive establishments. It is necessary to courageously undertake the responsibility of work and to bring, as urgently as possible, under the local administration those establishments and organizations which directly handle questions concerning the improvement of the people's life.

It is necessary for us to consolidate planning organs in localities and create them where they do not exist. It is essential for the party committees' role to be enhanced in this regard.

The forms and methods for leading the economy in the conditions of national reconciliation will entail a transition to a coalition administration which is impossible without consolidating the leading role of the party, and without its influence on the state and all political suprastructures. Party discipline, and responsibility, as well as the struggle of primary party organizations, are the guarantors of the victory of the national reconciliation policy.

Esteemed comrades, as a member of the Politburo, chairman of the Council of Ministers, and a senior party member, I express satisfaction with all we have carried out during the 5 and 1/2 revolutionary and difficult years. Meanwhile, like all true party members, I feel hurt for all our shortcomings and defects. These shortcomings and defects are numerous. If we had worked sincerely and responsibly, this number would have been small. The basic report by Comrade Najib and all his activities in connection with military construction, strengthening the party, and developing democracy, which only could be realized through raising the level of party discipline, creates a sense of pleasure and confidence in everyone. In such an atmosphere, the sense of new-style work will assist every human with a conscience in devoting all his energy to the proud cause of Afghanistan.

Thank you for your attention. [applause]

Najibullah Receives DYOA Pioneers, Heroes

LD262146 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 26 Oct 87

[Excerpts] Comrade Najibullah, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council, received this afternoon at the party Central Committee Headquarters the competent pioneers and heroes of the DRA on the occasion of 25 October, the solidarity day of Afghanistan's youth.

Comrade Najibullah, having met with the pioneers, highlighted their role as the powerful generation of the country's future. He expressed the hope that they would follow the work and heroism of the devoted youth in their future work and struggle, and that they would be ready for any type of self-sacrifice toward building Afghanistan's new society.

At the end of the meeting, Comrade Najibullah presented the DRA's medals and decorations to the competent pioneers. [passage omitted]

Comrade Farid Ahmad Mazda, first secretary of the DYOA Central Committee, was also present.

India

Gandhi Urges LTTE To Accept Peace Accord

BK271634 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 27 Oct 87

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has expressed confidence that the Indo-Sri Lanka agreement will be implemented despite delays. Addressing members of the Consultative Committee of the External Affairs Ministry in New Delhi today, the prime minister said the peacekeeping force is doing its job under the terms of the agreement and it will remain in Sri Lanka as long as the Sri Lankan president, Mr Jayewardene, wants it.

Mr Gandhi stressed that India had always desired that the LTTE accepts and abides by the agreement and surrenders arms. He said that the door is still open.

The prime minister added that India wants to see that fair dispensation is given to the Tamils within the territorial integrity of Sri Lanka.

The prime minister's visit to Vancouver for the Commonwealth Summit, his visit to the U.S., and his earlier stopover at Tokyo, besides developments in Fiji, are understood to have figured during the meeting.

'Terrorist' Activities Continue in Punjab

2 'Terrorists' Killed

BK251610 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 25 Oct 87

[Text] In Punjab, two terrorists were killed in two separate encounters with the CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] today. According to an official spokesman, the CRPF patrol party was fired upon when it signaled to stop a man and a woman riding on a cycle near village Nagoke in Amritsar District this morning. In the exchange of fire that followed, both of them were killed. The terrorist has been identified as Gian Singh Nagoke, and the woman as his wife.

In another encounter, a terrorist was killed in Malmori area of Amritsar District this evening. One officer and a sub-inspector of the CRPF patrol party have also been injured. The encounter was still continuing when reports last came in.

4 'Terrorists' Surrender

BK270632 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 26 Oct 87

[Text] In Punjab, four terrorists surrendered before the Faridkot police chief in Bangapurana this morning. According to an official spokesman, they also surrendered their arms and ammunition.

More 'Terrorists' Killed

BK280312 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 28 Oct 87

[Text] In Punjab, seven persons, including four [as heard] hard-core terrorists, were killed in separate incidents last night. According to an official spokesman, some terrorists ambushed a CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] party near Kakerian in Amritsar District. Two terrorists were killed, while others fled when CRPF jawans [personnel] returned the fire. Two pistols and some cartridges were recovered from the terrorists. In two other encounters with police naka [patrol] parties in the district, a terrorist was killed in village Manike near Baltoha police station. In two other incidents, a farmer, Subeg Singh, was shot dead by terrorists in Rurewal and a shopkeeper in Tangra.

In Faridkot district, the terrorists gunned down one person in Jandiana Gardi near Moga.

Soviet Union Agrees to Supply Drilling Rigs

BK270623 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 26 Oct 87

[Text] The Soviet Union is to supply India six drilling rigs to tap underground water resources. The rigs would cost about 10 crore rupees. They are being supplied as part of the Soviet assistance to the drought relief work in the country. Both countries today signed an agreement to

this effect in New Delhi. It was signed by the finance secretary for India. The deputy chairman of the State Committee of the Economic Afairs of the Soviet Union signed for his country.

Oil, Gas Discovered in Tamil Nadu Area

BK241611 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 24 Oct 87

[Text] Oil and gas have been struck at well, Bhuvanagari-2, about 10 km northwest of Chidambaram town in the Cauvery Basin in Tamil Nadu. A release of the Oil and Natural Gas Commission in Delhi today says oil is flowing from the well at the rate of 206 barrels a day and the gas at the rate of 52,000 cubic meters. Further testing is in progress.

Iran

Musavi Says U.S. Embargo Will Have No Effect

LD271752 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 27 Oct 87

[Text] Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi gave an interview today to our correspondent during which he commented on Reagan's recent propaganda concerning a ban on trade with Iran. He said: After the capture of the nest of spies and the severence of relations with the United States in 1983, the Prime Ministry issued a letter declaring imports from the U.S. Government, ministries, and executive departments to be prohibited, except in a very few cases. Since that time, along with efforts in economic planning and development, attempts have been made to utilize this opportunity to sever ties and attain self-sufficiency in the country. Thanks to efforts by managers and research personnel, we have been largely successful.

The United States' objective in announcing such a ban—a ban which by their own admission will cause no problems for the Islamic Republic of Iran—is motivated mainly by the United States' own domestic situation, particularly with regard to recent events in the Persian Gulf and the unprecedented collapse of the stock exchange. It is enough for the Reagan administration to show courage and publish the total imports by Iran from the United States during the past 6 years and then present comparative statistics of these 6 years to the year before the revolution so that we can all see the extent of Reagan's showmanship and the degree to which such showmanship has been staged to recoup his loss of prestige both inside and outside the United States.

The prime minister stressed that our nation and our government suffered no losses from similar boycotts imposed during the early stages of the war by other governments accompanying the criminal United States. He said: Events over the 7 years of imposed war and the resistence and perseverence of our hardworking nation have proved to the White House ringleaders and their allies that such measures would not have the slightest effect on the unwaivering will of our nation to continue working until the downfall of the aggressors. Moreover, such measures would harden the will of our nation to punish the warmongers and accelerate their efforts.

In conclusion, Mr Musavi referred to the economic crisis in the United States, as well as the worsening stock market crisis, and stated: American allies and those with great economic interests in that country will lose the most in the existing situation, not those having no economic ties with the United States.

Khamene'i Threatens To Close Strait of Hormuz

LD281227 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Oct 87

[Text] We will continue news reports at this time with remarks made by President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i to a gathering at Azadi Stadium of some 5,600 executive directors of agricultural and rural cooperatives and companies and supervisors of the rural cooperative regions.

Noting the creative role played by farmers and rural people in relation to agricultural self-sufficiency and the expanding policies of arrogance aimed at striking against the agricultural production program, the president said: The policies of the Islamic Republic of Iran are based on making the country independent of foreigners. This is diametrically opposed to the policies pursued by the previous regime. Thus, the first step toward achieving the country's independence in the agricultural sector lies in the domestic production of the foodstuffs needed by the people. On this basis, rural areas should be developed and agricultural production regarded as something of value. Products in this sector should achieve a first-rate status.

In another portion of his remarks, Mr Khamene'i asserted: The planners of arrogance and the major enemies of the revolution have felt that should the Islamic Republic, by giving priority to self-sufficiency and exploiting manpower resources and modern methods, turn to agriculture, increase output, have excess foodstuffs at its disposal, develop the country, and make people prosperous, then the Islamic Republic will become an unforgettable model for Muslim nations. If the war had not been imposed on us in the past few years and if international conspiracies of such magnitude had not been hatched against us, then without doubt, Muslim Iranian talent and ability would have been put to work to develop the country at a high level.

The president of the Supreme Defense Council continued: The imposed war was created precisely for that purpose. The imposed war was a major conspiracy that, according to the plans of arrogance, was expected to achieve one of two objectives: either to destroy the Islamic revolution or to keep people in a state of suspence [mo'ttal]. However, global arrogance was disappointed in both of these objectives.

Turning to the participation of rural people in constructive activity and at the warfronts, Mr Khamene'i said: At a time when the warfronts are full of rural people, the rural people's constructive and productive activity in the rural areas is commendable.

Turning to the U.S. presence in the Persian Gulf, the imam's representative on the Supreme Defense Council [as heard] said: Our firm resolve has in no way been shaken by any of the incidents brought about in the Persian Gulf and the United Nations by the world's major political operators. The Iraqi regime is a trouble-making and war-mongering regime. Our nation needs to engage in work and productive activity in an atmosphere of peace and tranquillity, which can only be achieved when there is no war-mongering Iraqi regime.

The chairman of the Supreme Defense Council referred to the American threats to impose an economic blockade against Iran and said: We will endure this pressure and turn it back against our enemy. We will not break under this pressure. Any aggressive action by the United States has received its answer. We declare that acts of mischief by the United States in the Persian Gulf will receive a proportionate reply. We have been threatened with an economic blockade by the Western states. We are not afraid of such things. We have the apropriate reply to any measure. The Strait of Hormuz is a waterway for shipping and for the Persian Gulf countries. The day we feel that no ships are enroute to Iran through that waterway, we will not allow any ship to enter the Persian Gulf.

In conclusion, Mr Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i addressed the officials of the country's cooperatives and stressed: You take this message with you to other rural people. The rural people should realize that the U.S. policy toward the Islamic Republic of Iran is a crime. The rural people should be active and alive in order to make us completely independent in terms of foodstuffs.

Planes Ignore U.S. Warnings in Gulf of Oman

NC280636 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 28 Oct 87

[Text] According to reports, three Iranian sea patrol planes in the skies above the Gulf of Oman received warnings from American warships on Friday [23 October]. The planes were flying in airspace over the Gulf of Oman opposite Jask port and patrolling the sea at 0759, 0813, and 1000 [0429, 0443, and 0630 GMT] respectively, when American warships, which were 20, 22, and 27 miles distant, asked the Iranian planes to change course. The American warships told the Iranian pilots that if their warnings were not heeded, they would act on Pentagon orders and consider the planes as targets. Despite the warning, the Iranian pilots continued on their course and told the American warships that they would approach them up to the legal distance. The Iranian planes then approached the American warships to within 10 miles. After identifying the warships, the planes returned to their bases.

GCC Ministers Split Over Kuwaiti Policies

LD271832 Tehran IRNA in English 1757 GMT 27 Oct 87

[Text] London, Oct 27, IRNA—Frustration over Kuwait's internationalising of the Persian Gulf situation showed through the latest declaration from the (Persian) Gulf Cooperation Council, reports from the region suggest Tuesday.

The (P)GCC foreign ministers issued what was seen as a watered-down statement after their weekend meeting in Riyadh to simply denounce that any aggression against one of the six member states amounted to aggression against all.

The London *The Independent* said Tuesday that the statement contained no specific condemnation of last Thursday's attack against Kuwait's Sea Island Terminal and were disguising "fundamental differences" in their policy with regard to Iran.

Last Thursday's missile strike on the terminal has severely restricted Kuwait's oil exports with tankers now reportedly leaving the Persian Gulf only partially full.

The failure of (P)GCC unanimity is seen as a serious blow to Saddam Husayn, who had dispatched his prime minister and foreign minister to the Saudi Arabian capital and subsequently to Kuwait.

The Independent said that there is still "residual anger" at Kuwait for internationalising the conflict by calling in the U.S. and sees the (P)GCC split between Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Bahrain on the one hand and Oman, Qatar and the UAE, who enjoy good ties with Tehran on the other.

The *Financial Times* also felt that the (P)GCC communique lacked "wholehearted" support accounted for by the divisions amongst its members and said that the "tortuously-phrased" statement only acknowledged the "dangerous escalation."

Most concerning for the Arab leaders is the internal unrest which is becoming increasingly directed against their complicity in aiding the U.S. military presence in the area, exampled by Saturday's explosion at the Pan-Am office in Kuwait.

Two other unidentified blasts were reported by journalists in Kuwait on the same day of the attack on the American airline office and had followed protest demonstrations against the U.S. in Bahrain two days earlier.

Reports from the Middle East have spoken of the American forces getting much greater military and financial support than what Arab states have been prepared to admit.

Increasingly large numbers of U.S. military advisers and support troops are said to be stationed at air bases in eastern Saudi Arabia in addition to the enormous naval facilities at Bahrain for the American fleet.

Kuwait reportedly has been more coy in providing such extensive facilities for the U.S., prefering to pitch in with funding military operations.

'Harsh' Bahraini Response to Manama Protest

LD240603 Tehran IRNA in English 0552 GMT 24 Oct 87

[Text] London, Oct 24, IRNA—Hundreds of men and women in Bahrain staged a series of anti-American protests in several parts of the tiny Persian Gulf island Thursday night, according to informed sources in London.

Demonstrators took to the streets of the capital Manama, Bani Jamrah town, Bilad al-Qadim as well as other areas in the country before the security forces attacked and dispersed them.

They were said to have openly expressed their condemnation of the American presence and Washington's policy in the Persian Gulf and showed their anger about the complicity of the governments of the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) states in aiding the U.S. cause.

Demonstrators set fire to several cars of the security forces after being attacked by the police and the security service agents headed by British General Ian Henderson.

The reliable Muslim sources told IRNA Friday that the response by the Bahraini authorities was very harsh and that security forces threw tear gas and detained many of the demonstrators.

The demonstrations took place on the eve of Joma (Friday) where the Muslims in Bahrain have revived the traditional Thursday night prayers in mosques and coincided with anniversary of the departure of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

Last month reports leaked out of the ultra-sensitive Arab state that thousands of Bahrainis gathered on the 40th day of the massacre of Muslim pilgrims in Mecca to condemn the Saudi regime and shout "Death to America" for the first time in Bahrain.

Torture of Detainees Claimed

LD272035 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 27 Oct 87

[Text] The Islamic Liberation Front of Bahrain, in a report, while lauding the wide-ranging anti-American rallies of the Muslim peoples staged in that country, warned their authorities about rough treatment conducted against the Muslim detainees, especially the sisters who are being held captive by that regime.

Based on this report, while suppressing these unprecedented demonstrations, four Muslim participants were wounded and some other interrogated and tortured in the prisons of the regime ruling over Bahrain by their security agents.

Political sources stated that the bloody confrontation of the regime of Bahrain with these vast Muslim demonstrations is indicative of the anti-American dimensions of these rallies, especially when the participation of women in them was unprecedented.

U.S Embassy Warns Americans

LD272308 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 27 Oct 87

[Text] The Islamic Front for the Liberation of Bahrain has issued a warning concerning the poor conditions of Muslim brothers and sisters imprisoned in the jails of the Bahraini regime. According to a Central News Unit report, during the extensive anti-American demonstrations staged by thousands of Bahrainis on 28 Safar [22 October] in the three important cities of Manama, (?Bani Jamreh, and Belad al-Qadim), at least 150 of the demonstrating sisters and a larger number of faithful Bahraini brothers were arrested.

The report adds that the demonstrations were crusl :d in an unprecedented way and a large number of people were wounded. Another special feature of these immense anti-American demonstrations was the extensive presence of Muslim women who participated in various demonstrations in the cities of this country, side by side with the Muslim Bahraini brothers. This occurred at a time when the U.S. Embassy in Bahrain warned Americans that their lives may be in danger.

Khomeyni's Envoy Attends Prayers in Beijing

LD241556 Tehran IRNA in English 0911 GMT 24 Oct 87

[Text] Beijing, Oct. 24, IRNA—Visiting Imam's representative and superintendent of the holy shrine of Imam Reza (AS) Hojjat ol-Eslam Va'ez Tabasi and his delegation took part in the Friday prayers of Beijing yesterday.

In a speech at the prayers he said that Muslims wherever they may be or whatever language they may speak and to whatever race they may belong are of the Islamic ummah (nation), therefore, there is no difference between the Chinese and Iranian Muslims.

Islam is the religion of brotherhood and Sunnis and Shi'ites lead a peaceful life in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

He expressed satisfaction with the freedom that Chinese Muslims enjoy in performing their religious rites in China.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Va'ez Tabasi also hoped that the Chinese Government would put more facilities at the disposal of Chinese Muslims.

Visit to PRC Called 'Successful'

LD280712 Tehran IRNA in English 0635 GMT 28 Oct 87

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 28, IRNA—Superintendent of the Holy Shrine of Imam Reza (AS) Hojjat ol-Eslam Va'ez Tabasi and a group of Iranian Government officials returned from a week-long visit to Beijing Monday.

In an interview with IRNA after his arrival here Tuesday the Hojjat ol-Eslam described his China visit 'successful' and said the Iranian delegates in that country were warmly received by the people and government officials wherever they went. He said during his visit to cities in China he had also inspected various Muslim mosques one of them as old as 1,200 years and dedicated one hand-woven Persian carpet for use at that mosque.

The superintendent of the holy shrine of Imam Reza said that in talks with Chinese Muslim officials the Iranian delegation had offered facilities in Iran for Chinese Muslim youth, which he said would be pending decision of Chinese Government officials.

He said that the visit to Beijing of the Iranian delegation was mainly for cultural and religious purposes, but noted that as is true with every visit to a foreign country, the visit to Beijing had cultural as well as political implications.

Tabasi said China has intimated a willingness to buy pistachio and carpets from Iran, and commented that trade exchanges between Iran and China would naturaly help promote relations between the two countries.

He said he was glad to notice an open atmosphere and reformed official outlooks towards religious minorities in China, which condition he attributed to the open policies of the post-cultural Revolution in that country.

Khamene'i Views USSR Ties as 'Strategic'

LD271511 Tehran IRNA in English 1504 GMT 27 Oct 87

[Text] Tehran, Oct 27, IRNA—Iran considers its good-neighbourly relations with the Soviet Union as strategic and stable, president 'Ali Khamene'i told Iran's ambassador to Moscow Naser Hayrani-Nobari here today.

President Khamene'i also said that Iran and the Soviet Union enjoy high potentials in various fields which should be properly exploited by the two countries in order to further expand bilateral cooperation.

Envoy Reports on Relations

LD271711 Tehran IRNA in English 1644 GMT 27 Oct 87

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 27, IRNA—Iran's ambassador to Moscow Naser Hayrani-Nobari met with Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi here today and briefed him on the latest developments in Tehran-Moscow political and economic relations.

In reply Musavi stressed on expansion of bilateral ties on an equal and good neighbourly basis. He said the two countries should take utmost advantage of the existing grounds in order to further expand long-term cooperation between them.

Besharati, GDR Envoy Discuss Gulf Situation

LD271952 Tehran IRNA in English 1545 GMT 27 Oct 87

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 27, IRNA—U.S. moves in the Persian Gulf are an open contempt of international regulations, Ambassador of the German Democratic Republic (GDR) to Tehran Guenther Fritsch announced here today.

In a meeting with acting Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati Fritsch condemned the U.S. attack on Iranian oil platforms, terming Washington's repeated provocations in the region as "violation of international conventions especially Article 5 of the Security Council Resolution 598". He also dismissed the U.S. proposal for arms and economic embargo on Iran as "absurd".

Besharati in response thanked GDR for its positive stance and assured the ambassador that Iran's defensive measures will continue as long as aggressor forces of the U.S. and NATO are present in the region.

Envoy to Turkey on Gulf War, Oil Prices

TA231508 Ankara ANATOLIA in English 1435 GMT 23 Oct 87

[Text] (A.A)—Iran's ambassador to Ankara Manushehr Mottaki said Thursday "in case the Gulf war spreads to the whole region, oil prices will rise up to 40 dollars per barrel."

In an exclusive interview with AA, Ambassador Mottaki said that the 8-year-old Iran-Iraq war has caused material loss above 300 billion dollars and "tens of thousands of deaths" for Iran. "Because her interests are in parallel, the Soviet Union has taken a realistic attitude in favour of Iran and asked the foreign war ships to leave the Gulf" he said, adding that Iran approved the Soviet behaviour.

Answering a question of AA about how the war would end, Ambassador Mottaki said "We favour the war to end by political means." "The cease-fire demand of the Security Council fills the Iraqi side of the balance and we ask them what do they plan to fill the other scale of the balance, that is, what will Iran's gain be?" The Iranian ambassador went on to say, "We tell them that cease-fire is possible when the other scale is also filled, namely Iraq is announced as the aggressor."

Stressing that peace in the region had two switches, Mr. Mottaki said "The first alternative is political, which means to announce Iraq as aggressor," adding "the latter switch is military, which the responsibility of the consquences will rest with them."

Stressing that the United States prefers to press the second switch, Ambassador Mottaki said "As we will naturally suffer losses at an American attack, the losses they will have to incur in the region will exceed ours many times." He added that Iran will pursue the policy of "counter-blow" in case of an American military initiative.

Ambassador Mottaki went on to say that the Gulf crisis was unique in its nature, when compared to the other crisis in the world. He added that if a war erupts in the region, the United States will have to suffer great damage. "We want peace in the region and good relations with our neighbours, which will be to the interests of our neighbours too" he said.

Asked his views on the friendly relations among the region's countries, Ambassador Mottaki said "The relations between Iran, Pakistan and Turkey form the best example of friendship in the region." He added that despite the differences of their systems, the three countries' interests were well-balanced in the long term.

Asked by AA, what would Turkey's loss be in case of a war, Ambassador Mottaki said Turkey's loss would be indirect. However in case of a war, petroleum prices would reach 40 dollars per barrel, which would eventually affect Turkey.

Asked by AA which side would have more loss of territory in case the war ends, the Iranian ambassador said that "Iraq lost more land than us, even though they also captured some territory."

Turkish Oil Official Arrives For Talks 26 Oct

LD261824 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 26 Oct 87

[Text] Kazim Oksay, Turkish minister of state for oil affairs, arrived in Tehran this afternoon at the head of a delegation at the invitation of Iranian Oil Minister Aqazadeh. The Turkish minister of state for oil affairs was interviewed by our correspondent at the airport on the aim of his visit. He said: I have come to your country at the invitation of Mr Aqazadeh. Although elections will be held in the near future in Turkey, I wanted to come for this visit.

Mr Oksay added: During my stay in Tehran, I will have discussions with officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran about the purchase of oil for 1988 and oil exploration.

In an interview with our correspondent about the goals of Mr Oksay's visit to Tehran, Mr Aqazadeh said: In view of the continually expanding relations with Turkey, and in order to make preparations for [Turkish Prime Minister] Mr Ozal's visit to Tehran, we invited him to come to Iran. He added: During his stay, we will hold discussions on the amount of oil to be purchased by Turkey from the Islamic Republic of Iran during 1988, the purchase of oil products from Turkey, and cooperation in the sphere of oil exploration.

Concerning the amount of oil to be sold to Turkey, our country's oil minister said: Last year we sold about 6 million tonnes of oil to Turkey. In 1988 we are also prepared to sell them the same amount or more. In conclusion, Mr Aqazadeh stated: In view of the fact that oil constitutes the main item purchased by Turkey from the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mr Oksay's visit to our country is of great importance.

Offered Natural Gas Supply

LD271440 Tehran IRNA in English 1057 GMT 27 Oct 87

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 27, IRNA—Visiting Turkish State Minister Kazim Oksay in a meeting with Iranian Minister of Oil Gholam Reza Aqazadeh here Tuesday reviewed topics in relation with a projected supply to Turkey of Iranian oil.

Aqazadeh and the Turkish minister expressed satisfaction with the progress of talks at lower level Iran-Turkey delegates and hoped that it would entail good results. The Iranian oil minister said to the Turkish minister that Iran would be willing to supply natural gas to Turkey.

According to an agreement Turkish officials are to conduct necessary studies and inform the Iranian side accordingly.

Iran-Turkey talks are expected to continue in the coming days.

Deputy Foreign Minister Departs for Brussels
LD272020 Tehran IRNA in English 1648 GMT 27 Oct 87

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 27, IRNA—Deputy Foreign Minister for economic and international affairs Mohammad-Javad Larijani left here Tuesday for Brussels.

Larijani is scheduled to hold talks with Belgian officials on important international issues as well as matters of mutual interest between the two countries.

Finance Minister Leads Delegation to Pakistan
LD241351 Tehran IRNA in English 1012 GMT 24 Oct 87

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 24, IRNA—Minister of economic and financial affairs, Mohammad Javad Iravani heading a delegation left Tehran for Islamabad Saturday to attend the third joint Iran-Pakistan economic ministers session scheduled to open Sunday.

Speaking to IRNA prior to his departure, he said the session will discuss progress on agreement signed by the economic ministers of the two countries in Tehran last year. The two sides, he added, will also explore economic cooperation opportunities.

During the session experts' committees will be set up to review economic cooperation and a new agreement on expansion of trade, economic and transports will also be signed, Iravani added.

Iravani who is also to convey a verbal message from President 'Ali Khamene'i to President Ziaul Haq of Pakistan further added that the volume of trade between Iran and Pakistan two years ago stood at dlrs. 100 million which last year increased by more than 100 percent.

According to Iravani the volume of trade for the current year is expected to reach dlrs. 400 million.

Other issues to be raised, he added, will include surface transportation, joint industrial projects, creation of small cane sugar factories, fisheries, agriculture and research.

Crude oil, buses, automobile glasses, cement and concentrated minerals are Iran's major exports to Pakistan.

Industries Minister Departs for Algiers
LD260726 Tehran IRNA in English 0705 GMT 26 Oct 87

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 26, IRNA—Minister of Heavy Industries Behzad Nabavi left Tehran for Algiers Monday morning heading an economic, political and cultural delegation.

Speaking to IRNA before his departure, Nabavi said that the visit is to strengthen political ties, broaden cultural relations, and make arrangements for exchange of non-oil goods between Iran and Algeria.

Nabavi is also to have a brief stop-over in Ankara on his way to Algiers and another in Sofia on his return trip for talks with officials of those countries on industrial and economic cooperation.

Prime minister's deputy for political affairs 'Ali Reza Mo'ayeri, officials from Ministries of Culture and Ershad-e Eslami, Agriculture, and Foreign Ministry are accompanying Nabavi in this visit.

A preparatory 15-member delegation led by heavy industries director general for economic and credit affairs Naser Eftekhar arrived in Algiers last Friday.

An economic agreement signed between the two countries four years ago was later shelved keeping Iran-Algeria trade exchanges at a low ebb despite warm diplomatic relations between the two.

Transport Minister Departs for Bulgaria
LD261442 Tehran IRNA in English 0910 GMT 26 Oct 87

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 26, IRNA—Iranian minister of roads and transportation Mohammad Seyyed Kya heading an economic delegation, left here for Sofia Monday morning. During his visit Kya is to review with Bulgarian officials bilateral economic relations especially in the field of surface transportation.

Post-revolution trade exchanges between Iran and Bulgaria has increased in volume and is expected to hit 500 million dollars this year.

The two countries also cooperate in surface transportation and international truckers regularly traverse Bulgaria to and from Iran.

Khamene'i Receives Greek Envoy's Credentials
LD271836 Tehran IRNA in English 1451 GMT 27 Oct 87

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 27, IRNA—Newly-appointed Greek Ambassador to Tehran Dimitrius Erjiriedis called on President 'Ali Khamene'i here Tuesday to submit his credentials.

During the meeting, the Greek ambassador said that his country is willing to further expand and strengthen its ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

President Khamene'i lauded Greece for its "positive and logical" stance in condemning presence of foreign military forces in the Persian Gulf. He also described the

stance as a "determining" factor for promoting Tehran-Athens ties. The president also called for further expansion of Iran-Greece ties and cooperation.

Receives SDAR Envoy

LD272035 Tehran IRNA in English 1614 GMT 27 Oct 87

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 27, IRNA—New Ambassador of the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic (SADR) B. Mohamed Fadhil met President Ali Khamene'i and presented his credentials, here Tuesday.

The Sahrawi ambassador announcing SADR's support for the Islamic Revolution of Iran said his countrymen hail Iranian Muslims as a nation who pulled down the greatest bastion of imperialism and its mercenaries, through the victorious Islamic Revolution in 1979.

In response, the president said the Sahara issue has been considered important in the Islamic Republic's policy since the triumph of the Islamic revolution. "We have always been beside the Sahrawi people and supported their just cause," Khamene'i added.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Khamene'i said the Islamic Republic believes that Sahrawi Muslims by relying on Allah and their own determination will certainly realize their goals despite the current difficult situation.

It is obvious from the Islamic Republic's experience that a nation which relies only on Allah and resists against the greatest global powers armed to the teeth, will surely emerge victorious, concluded the president.

Velayati Receives SWAPO Envoy's Credentials

LD261807 Tehran IRNA in English 1630 GMT 26 Oct 87

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 26, IRNA—Ambassador of the South-West African People's Organization (SWAPO) to Tehran Shi Hepo submitted a copy of his credentials to Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here today.

In the meeting, Hepo thanked the Islamic Republic for its spiritual and political support for the people's struggle in Namibia.

Hepo criticised imperialist forces under the patronage of the U.S. and also the Reagan Administration's meddlings in the affairs of the developing countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America, terming them as plots to obstruct revolutionary movements in these regions. He also called for immediate withdrawal of all foreign forces from the Persian Gulf and restoration of peace in this region.

In reply, Veleyati welcomed Hepo as the first SWAPO's ambassador in Iran after the 1979 Islamic revolution. He reiterated Iran's support for the people's struggle in Namibia, SWAPO as well as the African front line countries against the U.S. and the apartheid regime of South Africa.

5 Drug Smugglers Executed in Mashhad

LD261424 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 26 Oct 87

[Text] With the approval of the Supreme Islamic Revolution Court and the confirmation of the Supreme Judicial Council, five professional smugglers were executed this morning in Mashhad for extensive dealing in and distribution of narcotics.

According to IRNA, the names of the smugglers who have been executed are as follows: Qodratollah Ma'ndak, son of Malek; Ja'far Tajik, son of 'Azim; Tahmasb Esfandiyari, son of Tahmasb; 'Ali Akbar Azarakhshi, son of Esma'il; and Mahbub Rostamnezad, son of Rasul.

Supreme Judicial Council Considers Amnesty

LD262021 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 26 Oct 87

[Text] Today's session of the Supreme Judicial Council discussed a letter by the Shar' Magistrate of Khuzestan's Islamic Revolution Court dealing with amnesty for the various mini-groups who have come to realize the dastardly and filthy nature of war-waging organizations and who have repented. It was decided that on the basis of Article 211 of the Retribution Law—which states that any time the instigator of a war repents before being captured, then the punishment is cancelled—if such individuals surrender to officials of the Islamic Republic and the case is confirmed by the National Security Council and related officials, and if the courts accept their claim, then they will not be punished. Under such circumstances it is legal to issue amnesty letters.

IRNA Notes New Tehran Mayor Appointed

LD272022 Tehran IRNA in English 1647 GMT 27 Oct 87

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 27, IRNA—Interior Ministry deputy for Tehran's municipal affairs, Morteza Tabataba'i was appointed as the new mayor of Tehran by Minister of Interior 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, here today.

Tabataba'i replaces Mohammad Nabi Habibi.

Kurdish Leader Condemns U.S. Presence in Gulf

NC270847 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 27 Oct 87

[Text] In an interview with a Central News Unit correspondent in Orumiyeh, Sami 'Abd al-Rahman, secretary general of the Iraqi KDP and political and military leader of a group of Kurds opposing the Baghdad regime,

strongly condemned U.S. actions in the Persian Gulf that are creating tension. He stated: The presence of the American fleet in this sensitive area manifests Reagan's support for Saddam and his fear of the Islamic Revolution that, since its victory, has threatened the illegal interests of American imperialism in the world, particularly in the Middle East. He added: The United States' pretext for its military presence in the Persian Gulf—which has resulted in attacks on Iranian ships and oil platforms—is idiotic. Everyone knows that Saddam's regime is the only element that threatens navigation in this vital waterway. Iran has repeatedly stated that complete security will be ensured in the Persian Gulf once Iraq's mischiefs end.

The Iraqi KDP secretary general stressed that the United States will not be able to continue its military presence in the Persian Gulf for long because of domestic pressures. He called on all Muslim and progressive forces in the Middle East to take advantage, as best as possible, of the opportunity that has placed the U.S. forces within reach of the guns of the oppressed nations of the Middle East. He also called on them to unite with the brave Iranian fighters and avenge world-devouring imperialism and the decades of colonialism and exploitation.

Sami 'Abd al-Rahman, who recently returned from Iraq, spoke then about his observations on the current Iraqi situation. He said: It is hard to believe that 3,000 out of the 4,000 villages in Iraqi Kurdistan have been completely destroyed by the Saddam regime in recent years. The Baghdad regime is implementing a scorched earth policy against its own people and is massacring them with chemical weapons and napalm bombs. However, Saddam's brutalities have actually made our people more resistant. What I saw in Iraq was struggle, resistance, and hatred for the fascist Saddam regime, which is truly the biggest ally of Zionism at present.

In conclusion, he stated: I am proud to speak on behalf of all the fighting Iraqi forces, as well as on behalf of the oppressed people of Iraqi Kurdistan. I want to express our deep gratitude for the Islamic Republic's stands in defending the rights of the world's oppressed, and to pray for the victory of the Islamic Republic's brave combatants.

Arab Tribesmen Hold Maneuvers in Susangerd

NC250741 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 25 Oct 87

[Text] According to the Central News Unit from Ahvaz, in order to increase the combat readiness of the Mobilization Forces for counteracting plots of world oppression and American-caused tension in the Persian Gulf, maneuvers of Arab tribesmen in Dasht-e Azadegan called the [words indistinct] maneuvers (?commenced) in Susangerd District.

During these maneuvers, tribesmen from 15 villages and the noble fighters of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps of the 4th Precinct used light and heavy weapons and displayed military tactics in identifying hypothetical targets. They carried out operations by utilizing their military experience and, in accordance with military principles, attacked the selected targets within a minimum period of time. The noble tribesmen of Dasht-e Azadegan shouted crushing slogans of "Death to the United States," "Death to Saddam," and [words indistinct].

They displayed their military prowess and strength, declaring their readiness to join the defenders of the Persian Gulf for the crushing of the world-devouring United States and its allies in the Persian Gulf.

Basijis Depart for Fronts From Hormozgan

NC260724 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 26 Oct 87

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that in order to answer U.S. imperialism's mischiefs against the Islamic Revolution of Iran in the Persian Gulf, yesterday afternoon large groups of Basijis from Bandar-e 'Abbas, Minab, and [name indistinct] district left from Bandar-e 'Abbas for the country's war theaters as the second convoy of the 'Ashura Epicmakers of Hormozgan Province.

'Ashura Tribal Volunteers Leave for Front

NC280752 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 28 Oct 87

[Recorded telephone report by the Central News Unit correspondent in Shiraz; date not given]

[Text] In the name of God, the almighty, the merciful. The fourth tribal convoy of 'Ashura epicmakers left for the fronts of the imposed war after a ceremony in Shiraz. The convoy consists of tribal volunteers from the Qashqa'i, (Kohmarreh, Hamseh) and Lor Tribes, who attended [word indistinct] before their departure. While chanting slogans of the Islamic Revolution, they expressed their readiness to confront the mercenary U.S. Marines in the Persian Gulf.

Combat Operations Against Iraq Continue

Electricity Pylons Destroyed

LD271526 Tehran IRNA in English 1449 GMT 27 Oct 87

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 27, IRNA—Guerrillas of the special Division 6 of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) teamed up with Iraq's Kurdish combatants and totally destroyed high-voltage electricity pylons on the Dukan-Irbil axis during a string of operations Monday night.

Announcing the above here today, Ramadan headquarters of the IRGC irregulars reported that as a result of the attack the whole Irbil Province was engulfed in darkness. All combatants returned safely to bases after inflicting heavy losses on the enemy, it added.

Communique No 3,002

LD271709 Tehran IRNA in English 1620 GMT 26 Oct 87

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 27, IRNA—An Iraqi warplane was shot down during an air raid on non-military installation in southern Iran by the anti-aircraft fire of the Muslim combatants at 13:30 Hours local time (10:00 GMT) Tuesday, said a military communique here today.

The 3002nd communique released by the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces said that Iran's Navy gunboats intercepted and searched a cargo ship and two oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz Monday but allowed them to continue voyage after making certain they were not carrying cargo for Iraq.

Iranian Gendarmerie forces responded to Iraqi artillery fire in parts of the southern fronts Monday, killing or wounding a number of enemy soldiers and setting ablaze 10 gun emplacements and a munition dump of theirs.

In Qasr-e Shirin, western sector, Iranian artillery fire killed several Iraqi soldiers and inflicted considerable losses on enemy troops Monday.

Several Iraqi tanks were set ablaze and parts of enemy positions pounded in Panjwin, Nahr 'Anbar and east of Basra, northwestern and southern sectors, by Iranian artillery fire Monday.

Iran's Muslim combatants heavily shelled Iraqi positions in Mehran and Eynkhosh, western and southern fronts Monday, destroying some enemy artillery pieces and killing or wounding their crew, concluded the communique.

Iraq Attacks 9 Kurdish Villages

LD271902 Tehran IRNA in English 1550 GMT 27 Oct 87

[Text] Orumiyeh, West Azarbayjan Prov., Oct. 27, IRNA—The Iraqi regime razed nine more Kurdish Villages with tanks and armoured vehicles in Qarah-Dagh district of Al-Sulaymaniyah Province last week, reports reaching here from inside Iraq said today.

Following the inhuman crime Iraqi Kurdish combatants attacked and routed government troops in Qarah-Dagh and forced them to retreat from the region, said the reports.

Iraqi Plane Downed by Missile

LD271736 Tehran IRNA in English 1730 GMT 27 Oct 87

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 27, IRNA—An Iraqi warplane was targeted by a surface-to-air missile and shot down when some Iraqi warplanes attacked residential areas in Khuzestan province at 13:30 hours local time Tuesday.

Damage was inflicted on residential areas of the province during the enemy air raid resumed after a several-day lull.

There is no report yet on the fate of the Iraqi pilot.

Second Iraqi Aircraft Downed

LD272057 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 27 Oct 87

[Text] According to our latest report, less than 7 hours after the downing of an aggressor enemy aircraft in Khuzestan Province, another Iraqi aircraft was shot down over the Persian Gulf. According to reports reaching us, the alert defensive units stationed on Lavan Island fired against three aggressor enemy aircraft at 2015 tonight, hitting two of them. One was destroyed, falling into the Persian Gulf. The other managed to leave the area and no information is available at the moment on its possible crash site.

As a result of this attack, Lavan Island's facilities were damaged. However, no one was injured. The report adds that there are no details available at the moment about the fate of the pilot of the downed enemy aircraft that crashed in the Persian Gulf.

Iraqi Raids 'Non-Military Area'

LD281042 Tehran IRNA in English 1038 GMT 28 Oct 87

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 28, IRNA—Iraqi war planes raided a non-military area in the southern province of Fars around noon Wednesday. A number of civilians were injured and damage was inflicted on the area in this Iraqi air attack.

Retaliation for Raid Promised

LD281106 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Oct 87

[Text] In response to the mischief of the past 2 days by the enemy, the fighters of Islam will renew their deterrent measures. A statement by the War Information Headquarters says: In the wake of the Iraqi regime's attacks on the Iranian civilian regions in the Provinces of Fars and Khuzestan yesterday and today, the fighters of Islam will renew their retaliatory and deterrent measures.

The statement says: The fighters of Islam will perform their retaliatory measures with full force until the Zionist enemy ceases its mischief. As long as they continue their mischief the rulers of Baghdad must live under the threat of deadly response by the fighters of Islam.

In this statement the people of Iraq have been asked to evacuate as quickly as possible from the vicinity of military, economic, and industrial establishments in Iraqi towns—except for the four secure towns of that country—so that they may not be harmed in the course of the deterrent operations of the fighters of Islam.

Nepal

Preparations for 3d SAARC Summit Complete

BK260402 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 26 Oct 87

[Text] Preparations are complete for the third SAARC summit beginning in the Nepalese capital, Kathmandu, from the 2d of next month. The Nepalese foreign minister, Mr S.K. Upadhyaya, told newsmen in Kathmandu yesterday that the heads of state and government who come to attend the summit in the Himalayan kingdom will be provided adequate security.

A 3-day preparatory meeting of the programming committee on the draft proposals on various issues to be submitted to the foreign ministers for discussion is beginning today. Our Kathmandu correspondent understands that the Nepalese delegation is preparing a draft declaration to be adopted at the summit.

Pakistan

Iranian Minister Holds Talks With Junejo

NC280746 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 28 Oct 87

[Text] Mr Mohammad Javad Iravani, our minister of economic affairs and finance, who has gone to Pakistan at the head of a delegation, met with Prime Minister Muhammad Khan Junejo of Pakistan yesterday.

The Central News Unit reports that during this meeting, the Pakistani prime minister expressed support for the expansion of commercial and economic exchanges between the two countries. On the regional situation, he said: (?We expressed our concern) to some countries following the U.S. attack against the (?Iranian) oil installations in the Persian Gulf.

Soviet Ambassador Comments on Afghan Issue

BK241050 Karachi DAWN in English 13 Oct 87 p 1

[Text] Karachi, Oct 12: The Soviet Ambassador in Pakistan, Mr Abdul-Rakhman Ogly Vezirov, has said his Government was in earnest about withdrawing its "limited contingent" from Afghanistan, but that the pullout had to be conditional on a total stoppage of foreign interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan.

The sooner the settlement of the Afghanistan issue, the better it would be for all concerned, he said, but it was not "such a simple matter", as settlement was linked to the prime requirement of stopping meddling into the Afghan people's affairs.

Mr Vezirov was speaking at the Pakistan Institute of International Affairs (PIIF) here on Monday [12 October], where his audience included diplomats as well as students and analysts of international affairs. His survey of the USSR's current socioeconomic and political scenario was instructive just as his replies to a spate of searching questions were frank and substantial.

The Soviet Union wished to see Afghanistan "an independent and a neutral state having friendly relations with all its neighbouring countries", he observed.

As for the future government of Afghanistan, he maintained it was the inherent right of the Afghan people to choose whichever form of government they desired.

Mr Vezirov told a questioner it was "desirbale" to have Iran associated in the process of talks for a political resolution of the Afghanistan crisis. For, without the cooperation of Iran any agreement entered into would be incomplete and ineffective, he pointed out.

The Soviet Union attached due importance to the indirect talks held between Pakistan and Afghanistan under the "good offices" of the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General, he said.

He commended the process of national reconciliation in Afghanistan, saying it was going on well and that no impediment from outside should be put in its way.

On Pak-Soviet relations Mr Vezirov asserted his country "sincerely" wished to live with Pakistan as "good neighbour, in peace and on the basis of equality and reciprocity".

He recalled the statement of the Soviet leader, Mr Gorbachev, during his visit to India in November last year that the USSR stood committed to friendly relations with Pakistan. "Mr Gorbachev's statement forms part of our policy towards Pakistan", Mr Vezirov said.

Pakistan and the Soviet Union are neighbours, but what to Mr Vezirov was more important was that "we must co-exist and have mutual trust and a feeling of reciprocity".

It was in his country's interest that Pakistan, Iran and Afghanistan remained stable and independent, he said in another context.

Mr Vezirov, while wishing Pakistan well, hoped that its economy remained independent and self-reliant so as to cater for the prosperity of the people.

He said in reply to a question the Soviet Government was watching closely the explosive situation in the Gulf's international waterways as the concentration of the U.S. and other foreign fleets there was at a short distance from the USSR's southern border.

Mr Vezirov disagreed with another questioner that the policy of Glasnost (openness) pursued by Mr Gorbachev was an imitation of the Western democratic concept. The policy has been conceived exclusively to remove stagnation in the Russian society and to facilitate the gigantic task of national reconstruction, he pointed out.

The Soviet envoy called a "great event" the agreement reached in Washington on the limitation of the nuclear arms and hoped that it would prove to be the harbinger of a major breakthrough in the process of elimination of nuclear weapons and of total disarmament.

He claimed the Soviet society today was being morally and structurally reformed and that the pace of socioeconomic development was being accelerated for the benefit of the people at large.

Foreign Office Spokesman on Current Issues

Views Countering Propaganda

BK261154 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 26 Oct 87

[Text] Pakistan has taken steps to counteract the propaganda and disinformation campaign launched by the Kabul regime to mislead the world opinion on the Afghanistan issue. A Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad today that Pakistan has sent special envoys to over 30 countries in Latin America, Africa, and Asia for this purpose. He said Pakistan has also started informing the co-sponsors and supporter of the Afghan resolution in the UN General Assembly about the unacceptability of certain amendments cleverly crafted by the Kabul regime to achieve its ulterior motive.

The spokesman pointed out that the previous resolutions do not in any way refer to the Soviet or Kabul regime's allegations of outside interference in Afghanistan. The introduction of this concept in the proposed resolution will, therefore, be a perversion of the logic of the [words indistict], which have called for unconditional withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan.

Assesses U.S. Aid Prospects

BK261705 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 26 Oct 87

[Text] Pakistan has sent special envoys to over 30 Latin American, African, and Asian countries to counter propaganda and disinformation campaign launched by the Kabul regime to mislead world opinion on the Afghanistan issue. A Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad today that previous resolutions at the UN General Assembly have called for unconditional withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan. The concept of alleged outside interference in Afghanistan in the proposed resolution will amount to perversion of the logic in this regard. Pakistan has started informing co-sponsors and supporters of the Afghanistan resolution in the UN General Assembly about the unacceptability of these amendments cleverly crafted by the Kabul regime to achieve its ulterior motive.

About American military sale credit and economic assistance to Pakistan, the spokesman said there are good prospects of their continuation. He hoped the American Congress would agree to a 6-year waiver of the so-called Symington agreement for the whole duration of the aid package.

About the crisis in the Gulf, the spokesman said its escalation has deepened Pakistan's concern because of its geographical proximity, as well as its multidimensional links with the people of the region.

The recent (?progress) achieved by the UN secretary general during his visit to Baghdad and Tehran need a follow-up action by the Security Council.

Comments on Hammer's Mission

BK270142 Hong Kong AFP in English 0115 GMT 27 Oct 87

[Text] Islamabad, Oct 26 (AFP)—Pakistan Monday played down U.S. industrialist Armand Hammer's initiatives on promoting a settlement of the Afghanistan conflict and categorically rejected any conditional Soviet withdrawal.

A Foreign Office spokesman commenting on Mr. Hammer's trips to Islamabad, Kabul and Moscow said he could not be described a peace negotiator.

The U.S. business tycoon, who last week met Pakistan President Mohammad Ziaul Haq here, has said he was trying to promote an understanding which could end the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan.

Asked if Pakistan had any faith in Mr. Hammer's mission the spokesman said "Everyone is welcome to contribute towards such an understanding," but added that only time would tell.

For its part, Pakistan was pursuing negotiations on the Afghan issue on two tracks, he said, taking part in the United Nations-sponsored indirect peace talks with Kabul in Geneva and was also engaged in bilateral contacts with the Soviet Union.

Referring to moves at the U.N. on the up-coming Afghan resolution in which Kabul was trying to get a Soviet withdrawal linked to endorsement of its national reconciliation policy, the spokesman said this was unacceptable to Pakistan.

He said Kabul's policy was "devoid of any sincerity," and was intended only to assure acceptance of its dominant role in Afghanistan.

The Pakistani and Soviet foreign ministers met in September during the U.N. General Assembly session and Moscow was expected to send its first deputy foreign minister to Islamabad. Pakistan was looking forward to the resumption of these contacts although no date had yet been fixed, he said.

He said Pakistan was also extending all cooperation to the U.N. intermediary Diego Cordovez, on concluding the fourth and final instrument—covering a timetable for Soviet withdrawal—of a comprehensive settlement of the Afghanistan issue.

Views Resumption of USSR Talks

BK270245 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 27 Oct 87

[Text] Pakistan is looking forward to resuming bilateral talks with the Soviet Union, which have been continuing along with the Geneva indirect negotiations for the settlement of the Afghanistan problem.

A Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad yesterday that the Soviet deputy foreign minister is expected to visit Islamabad soon for this purpose, but no date has so far been fixed for the visit. The last contact between the two countries was established late last month when Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan had a meeting with his Soviet counterpart Eduard Shevardnadze.

The spokesman said several other countries and personalities are utilizing their influence to help achieve a settlement of the Afghanistan problem. One of such personalities is the U.S. businessman Armand Hammer who has already toured various capitals and met leaders of the Soviet Union, the United States, the United Kingdom, Pakistan, and the United Nations.

Death Sentence Given to Afghan KHAD Agent

BK241603 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 24 Oct 87

[Text] A special tribunal in Peshawar, set up to hear cases relating to subversive activities, issued a death sentence, as well as a life imprisonment sentence, to Sher Afghan, an Afghan national and agent of Kabul regime's intelligence agency KHAD, for his involvement in two different cases. He was prosecuted under the Explosive Materials Act for two bomb blasts, one of which took place at an Afghan refugee tent village some time ago. The other bombing took place near the Intermediate and Secondary Education Board office in Peshawar in which 14 people were injured.

Sri Lanka

Indian Peacekeeping Force 'Mopping-Up' Jaffna

Relief Work Increased

BK271630 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 27 Oct 87

[Text] In Sri Lanka, the peacekeeping force is all set to launch a massive peace offensive to restore normalcy in Jaffna. A peacekeeping force, which is continuing its mopping-up operations in the remaining isolated LTTE pockets in and around the town, is providing food, medicines, and other relief items to the 130,000 population who have taken refuge in temples, churches, and schools. The Indian Red Cross is supervising the relief work.

A commander of the peacekeeping force told newsmen that power supply to the town, which had been disrupted by LTTE attack, is likely to be restored in the next couple of days.

A large number of media men were taken round Jaffna town by the peacekeeping force to see for themselves the unscathed hospital complex and government buildings with no sign of any destruction. Doctors of the peacekeeping force were seen attending to the injured civilians and providing adequate medical care. An assorted pile of weapons of the LTTE, ranging from land mines and mortar shells, were displayed at the peacekeeping force camp at Navatkuli.

An official spokesman said in New Delhi today that LTTE radio interceptions indicate that they are discussing the possibilities of stopping armed action and regrouping their forces. He said during the last 24 hours, three caches of explosives and ammunition belonging to the LTTE have been captured by the peacekeeping force. They included over 300 mines, besides booby traps, detonators, explosives, and other material.

Chavakachcheri Captured

BK280332 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 28 Oct 87

[Text] The Peacekeeping Force [PKF] captured Chavakachcheri township, east of Jaffna, in a swift action last night. Twelve LTTE men were killed in the operation. Two PKF jawans [soldiers] suffered injuries. Mopping-up and flushing-out operations are in progress in the area.

A senior Sri Lankan military official said in Colombo that LTTE men killed four Sri Lankan soldiers in the country's east yesterday. The soldiers were clearing mines on a road northeast of Colombo.

In Batticaloa, LTTE men set off several explosions in an effort to force shops to close.

Meanwhile, the PKF continued its massive relief and rehabilitation work in Jaffna town. Fifteen thousand kg of food grains and cooked food were distributed at the relief camps at Hindu College, RC church, and Usmania College area in the town yesterday. Four relief committees were formed by the local people, and the collective rations provided by the PKF, particularly to the people in Nallur Kandasamy Temple area. There are more than 50,000 refugees in this area. The third Indian Red Cross team has reached Jaffna hospital with essential and lifesaving drugs which were airlifted to Jaffna. A team of doctors and specialists from the Army and the Indian Red Cross are performing lifesaving operations and providing specialist services to the affected people. The medical team is functioning under the direct supervision of the director medical services, Southern Command, Major General Chehal.

A spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry told newsmen in Madras yesterday that about one lakh people will benefit from the relief assistance being provided by the PKF. He said electrical engineers who reached Jaffna, have located electric supply failure point at Chunakam and they are getting in touch with the Sri Lankan Government to rectify it.

The spokesman said curfew will be lifted in stages after 4 days. The PKF is clearing the mines at all places and people will be permitted to leave for their homes only after ensuring that there are no mines. During the flushing-out operations of the commandos, the PKF recovered large quantities of ammunition and explosives in the university area.

LTTE Reportedly Seeks To Smuggle in Weapons

BK271719 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1700 GMT 27 Oct 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Oct 28 (*Lanka Puwath*)—The authorities were maintaining maximum surveillance on two ships which were sighted last evening off the east coast of Sri Lanka and reported moving northwards, officials told *Lanka Puwath*.

This follows intelligence reports that the LTTE had secured another supply of arms and explosives and were trying to smuggle them into northern or eastern Sri Lanka.

Earlier intelligence reports revealed that LTTE arms shipments were smuggled from ships anchored in deep sea off the east coast and transferred on to terrorist boats and taken ashore 'clandestinely' under the cover of darkness.

The LTTE was earlier reported to be making attempts to charter a freighter to carry the latest shipment of arms as it was reported to have sold the two small freighters it operated.

Intelligence reports also state that the LTTE have received a shipment of arms, comprising AK-47 assault rifles, RPG-7 anti tank rockets and explosives for the manufacture of land mines.

According to the Indian newspaper *Hindu* this pointed to the fact that the LTTE had decided sometime in September or even earlier to scuttle the Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord.

Intelligence reports also reveal that LTTE terrorists were now heightening their activities in the Eastern Province particularly, laying land mines and booby trap bombs.

The heightened activities during the last few days resulted in the kidnapping of two policemen, the land mine explosion of an IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] truck which killed 40 soldiers, the blasting of a vital bridge at Thoppur, the killing of two Sri Lanka Army soldiers and two members of the national auxiliary force yesterday at Palampattur, the killing of two youths, one a Tamil and the other a Muslim at Valaichenai and the abduction of two Muslims who were travelling in a private bus near Kiran .

These were some of the principal attacks carried out by the LTTE terrorists in the Eastern Province districts of Trincomalee and Batticaloa in the last few days.

The authorities, meanwhile heightened security arrangements and are taking all measures to combat any attempt by the LTTE to stage a comeback and effectively eradicate terrorism officials told *Lanka Puwath*.

4 Soldiers Killed by Land Mine in Trincomalee

BK271646 Hong Kong AFP in English 1507 GMT 27 Oct 87

[Text] Colombo, Oct 27 (AFP)—Suspected Tamil rebels exploded a landmine in the northeastern Trincomalee District Tuesday, killing four Sri Lankan soldiers, a Sri Lankan military spokesman said.

The four victims were on a routine patrol at a place called Thampalagamam when suspected Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) fighters set off the blast, he said.

Indian and Sri Lankan officials have said that LTTE men ousted from their northern Jaffna stronghold would move to the Eastern Province to continue a guerrilla war for a homeland from there.

India declared Jaffna a "free city" on Sunday, 17 days after Indian troops launched an offensive there to disarm the LTTE.

At least 175 Indian soldiers have died and over 650 rebels have been killed in the operation which was in line with an Indo-Sri Lankan peace accord aimed at ending four years of Tamil separatist violence in the island nation.

Correspondent Arrested After Jaffna Report

BK271706 Hong Kong AFP in English 1615 GMT 27 Oct 87

[Text] Colombo, Oct 27 (AFP)—A Sri Lankan journalist working for a Madras-based newspaper has been arrested after his report from the Jaffna battlefront was published in a local daily, a lawyer said Tuesday.

The lawyer for D.B.S Jeyaraj, the Colombo correspondent of the newspaper *The Hindu*, quoted investigators as telling him that the arrest was made following an on-the-spot report from the northern Sri Lankan town.

The report, published in the privately-owned *Island* newspaper, was critical of an Indian military offensive in Jaffna against members of the dominant Tamil militant group the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

It was not immediately clear who had ordered his arrest and the Indian High Commission (embassy) here said it had no information about the arrest.

The lawyer, Upali Gooneratne, said he had not been allowed to meet Mr. Jeyaraj who is being held by the police Criminal Investigations Department.

(In New Delhi, the *Press Trust of India* (PTI) said Mr. Jeyaraj was arrested because of a story in which he interviewed a Tamil rebel leader.

(N. Ram, associate editor of *The Hindu*, was quoted as saying in the southern Indian city of Madras Tuesday that the arrest of Mr. Jeyaraj late Monday was aimed at intimidating the press.

(The arrest raised "serious concerns relating to media independence and the exercise of democratic rights," he said in a statement.

(The action was "consequent on instructions from Sri Lanka's secretary of defence and related directly to the conduct and publication of the interview," he said.)

Trial Begins for July Assault on Gandhi

BK280627 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0600 GMT 28 Oct 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Excerpt] Colombo, Oct 28 (*Lanka Puwath*) —The courtmartial of Lance Corporal Vijayamuni Vijitha Rohana of the Sri Lanka Navy, facing charges for the attempted murder of Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and committing an act prejudicial to good order and naval discipline, commences today at the naval base at Welisara, few miles away from Colombo.

The charges against him are:

"That on or about July 30, 1987 at Janadhipathi Mawatha, Colombo you did assault Sri Rajiv Gandhi with a rifle with such intent or knowledge and under such circumstances that had you by such act caused the death of Sri Rajiv Gandhi, you would have been guilty of murder and that by such act caused hurt to the said Sri Rajiv Gandhi and that you have thereby committed an offence punishable under Section 300 of the Penal Code read with Section 119 of the Navy Act.

At the time and place aforesaid and in the course of the same transaction whilst a guard of honour was being paraded in honour of Sri Rajiv Gandhi, the prime minister of the Republic of India, you did strike the said Sri Rajiv Gandhi with a rifle an act prejudicial to good order and naval discipline and thereby you did commit a naval offence punishable under Section 104 of the Navy Act". [passage omitted]

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